

Saudi leader cables King Hussein

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday received a cable from King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia in reply to a cable he sent to congratulate the Saudi monarch on the Hijri (Islamic) New Year. "I have received your congratulations cable on the occasion of the Hijri New Year and I am pleased to exchange congratulations with you on this dear occasion," King Fahd said. "I hope that this occasion will be repeated while Your Majesty is enjoying full health and happiness and the Jordanian people enjoying prosperity and progress under your wise leadership," King Fahd added, expressing hopes that the Arab and Islamic nations would achieve their aspirations.

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Palestinians urge normalcy in Hebron

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank (AFP) — Israeli military restrictions have crippled the economy of Hebron since the February 25 mosque massacre, Mayor Mustapha Naatshe said Monday. "The ongoing closure has crippled the economy of the city," Mr. Naatshe told reporters. "We call upon all peace-loving countries and organisations to intervene to bring life back to normal." The mayor demanded that the 450 Jewish settlers be evacuated from the town and that the mosque where a settler gunned down more than 30 Muslims be reopened. He called for Arab cars to be allowed to use the main road through Hebron, for the reopening of the vegetable market and the lifting of all roadblocks. The statement came after the army announced Sunday that the market would open on Monday, but was then kept closed (see page 2).

Another 270 PLO men reach Gaza

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Some 270 Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) soldiers and cadres arrived in the self-rule area of Gaza overnight to prepare for the expected arrival of Chairman Yasser Arafat later this month, officials said Monday. They entered from Egypt and Tunisia through the Rafah border and joined up with some 3,500 men who have already entered the ranks of the Palestinian police force. PLO chief autonomy negotiator Nabil Shaath is set to arrive in Gaza on Tuesday to ready for Mr. Arafat's return, which he has said will happen within two weeks.

Oman's shura council to be expanded

MUSCAT (AP) — Oman announced Monday a wideened base of popular representation in its Majlis Al Shura. Interior Minister Badr Ben Hareb said the council will have 80 members instead of the present 59 when its new term begins in January. Addressing a press conference, Mr. Ben Hareb said each district with more than 30,000 inhabitants will now be represented by two members. Other will send one member each. The present council consists of one representative from each district irrespective of the size of its population. Its present three-year term ends in December this year.

Iraqi Kurdish leaders meet

ANKARA (AFP) — Rival Iraqi Kurdish leaders Masoud Barzani and Jalal Talabani met Monday in the Turkish border town of Silopi. Foreign Ministry spokesman Ferhat Ataman said. He told the Anatolian news agency that the second Barzani-Talabani meeting in just over a week was aimed at ending the clashes between their factions that erupted in early May. The meeting, in which Turkish diplomats said security officials also took part, was also to discuss new elections which the Kurds plan to organise in northern Iraq.

Clinton welcomes Japanese emperor

WASHINGTON (AP) — Japanese Emperor Akihito was received at the White House in a formal welcoming ceremony Monday as President Bill Clinton said the United States and Japan share a common view of "a world at peace." Emperor Akihito underlined the friendship between the two countries, saying "our two countries have overcome the deplorable rupture brought about by war" and have forged a strong relationship despite historical and cultural differences. The Japanese emperor, 60, called for continued cooperation and friendship, which he said would "make the Pacific a true ocean of peace."

Sanaa says south broke truce amid Ibrahimi efforts

Combined agency dispatches

THE NORTH declared a three hour ceasefire Monday in response to what it said was an appeal from the breakaway and besieged south, but claimed the southerners broke the latest truce in Yemen's nearly 6-week-old war.

All four previous ceasefires also broke down within hours with each side accusing the other of being the first to resume fighting.

Three of the truces were called last week amid heightened U.N. efforts to mediate a peaceful end to the conflict which erupted May 4, breaking up the four-year-old union of capitalist North and socialist south Yemen.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh claimed southern forces broke Monday's ceasefire "in order to bring in international observers and to internationalise the Yemeni crisis," according to Yemen's northern-run state news agency, SABA.

The south has called for international intervention, which the north opposes as "foreign interference." Mr. Saleh made his claim during a meeting with ambassadors of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, but did not give any details about how, when or where the truce was broken, according to SABA.

However, he complained of "flagrant interference in Yemen's internal affairs by hostile countries with a view to prolonging the strife," SABA reported.

Earlier Monday, the north claimed that Saudi forces, including 150 tanks, had massed on the northern border and that the Saudis were mobilising mercenaries to buttress the south.

The claim could not easily be checked. The Saudis routinely station troops in the

border region and there is a military base in Jizan not far from the frontier.

The Saudis have a history of playing off the various sides against each other in Yemen. They also have not forgiven northern leaders for sympathising with Iraq during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

Sunday night, the state run Saudi Press Agency quoted a government official as denying earlier northern claims that Riyadh was financing the southern war effort. But there was as yet no Saudi reaction to the claim Saudi troops were massing on the border.

Southern Yemen seceded May 20, but the breakaway state has not been recognised internationally.

The southern Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) said on Monday southern leader Ali Salem Al Beidh wants U.N. peace envoy Lakhdar Brahimi to visit the besieged city of Aden.

Northern and southern troops meanwhile fought artillery duels in the frontlines outside Aden, from where the blast of explosions could be heard.

Several shells also landed on districts of the port city itself. Even so, around 300 young demonstrators gathered near the airport with placards calling for peace, in the hope of Ibrahim's arrival.

Mr. Beidh, before receiving the envoy in the eastern city of Mukalla, wants him to visit Aden "to see for himself the deterioration of the humanitarian situation here," a YSP official said in Aden.

Another southern official said, however, that Mr. Ibrahim was expected to travel to Saudi Arabia later Monday. The former Algerian foreign minister met President

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Arafat vows to fight Israeli fait accompli

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Monday he would resist any attempts by Israel to change the population makeup of Arab East Jerusalem by building more Jewish settlements.

He also reiterated that the city would be the capital of an independent Palestinian state to which he aspires.

Addressing the 30th African summit in Tunis, Mr. Arafat accused Israel of imposing "a final settlement" in the Arab-Israeli conflict over Jerusalem despite an agreement with the PLO to leave the issue for future negotiations.

"This is a violation of what we have agreed upon that there should be no pre-emptive decisions on the issues," Mr. Arafat told heads of state and representatives of 52 African nations.

"The government of Israel, by trying with statements, measures and positions to impose a fait accompli on an issue that affects the emotions not only of the Palestinian people, but also all Arabs, Muslims and Christians," he said.

"We will not allow... change in the democratic character of the holy city, sacred to all divine religions."

On Sunday, foreign ministers of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) recommended to their leaders a draft resolution that calls on Israel to refrain from building more settlements in the city and to stop changing its character.

The regulation declared that Israel's 1967 "annexation" of East Jerusalem is "null and void" and calls on

the Jewish state to pull out. It was expected to be passed by the summit.

After two years of Palestinian autonomy, the PLO and Israel are supposed to open talks on a permanent settlement that is to include the final status of Jerusalem.

A senior Israeli official said meanwhile Mr. Arafat had agreed to drop the stormy debate over Jerusalem "for the time being."

Mr. Arafat had made the offer in a series of letters sent to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last week after a major rumour over the fate of the city.

The PLO leader expressed his intention to smooth over differences and reduce tension," the official told AFP. "He is ready to withdraw the question of Jerusalem from the agenda for the time being."

Mr. Arafat also urged Israel to respect the written undertaking from Foreign Minister Shimon Peres last October to allow Palestinian institutions to continue operating in East Jerusalem.

The Israeli Haaretz newspaper reported that the government had decided not to allow Mr. Arafat to enter East Jerusalem during his visit to the autonomous Palestinian areas which is expected to take place sometime this month.

The army had voiced that Mr. Arafat's arrival in East Jerusalem would lead to clashes between Palestinians and the Israeli right-wing. Some extremists have called for Mr. Arafat to be murdered.

Mr. Rabin said last month that the PLO leader would not be allowed into Jerusalem for at least two years.



DEMAND FOR FREEDOM: Palestinian mothers stage a protest rally in the Gaza Strip on Monday demanding the release of their sons detained in Israeli jails (see story on page 12) (AFP photo)

Pipeline deal upto Iraq — U.S. aide

NICOSIA (AFP) — Iraq could make or break a deal to flush out an oil pipeline running through Turkey that was shut down by U.N. sanctions, a U.S. official told the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) published here Monday.

Iraq could sell 150,000 barrels of oil a day over six months if it adopts a flexible attitude to U.N. conditions allowing a partial lifting of the embargo, the State Department official told MEES.

But if it refuses to comply with the conditions — including U.N. supervision of humanitarian supplies bought with oil proceeds — there will be no deal, the official warned, requesting anonymity.

At issue are some 12 million barrels of Iraqi crude oil trapped in a 991-kilometre dual pipeline running from Iraq to the Mediterranean through Turkey.

The oil has remained in the pipeline since 1990 when the United Nations imposed sanctions against Iraq for invading Kuwait.

The Turks, who have complained of the loss of income because of the embargo on their neighbour, fear the oil will corrode the pipeline and want to flush it out.

Turkey has proposed Iraq's profits be used to purchase humanitarian goods and repair the pipeline, but the United States is concerned that allowing Iraq to profit from the sale would break the U.N. embargo.

Significant progress came during the past week after talks in Washington with Turkey's under-secretary for foreign affairs, Ozdem Sanberk, according to U.S. officials.

Mr. Sanberk is to visit Baghdad on Wednesday to try to resolve the dispute, the Nicotia-based newsletter MEES reported.

The specialist weekly also quoted an official of the Turkish state-owned BOTAS pipeline authority as saying the pumping of oil could begin within 15 days of a new U.N. Security Council resolution to allow the flushing.

Resolutions 706 and 712 on the partial lifting of the embargo on Iraq demand that 30 per cent of revenue from the sale of Iraqi oil goes to the U.N. Compensation Fund.

The rest must be used to buy humanitarian supplies to be distributed fairly throughout Iraq under U.N. supervision, including northern Iraq which is ruled by Kurds outside Baghdad's control.

Maaytah murder suspect claims Lockerbie blast

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A Palestinian being tried for the assassination of a Jordanian diplomat started a Beirut court Monday when he claimed he blew up Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988, killing 270 people.

But the interrogating magistrate cast doubt upon the claim and the U.S. State Department said it had no evidence to support it.

"We did see the reports, we have absolutely no evidence that would corroborate them," Barbara Bodine, the State Department coordinator on counter-terrorism, said. "He was not a suspect."

Mr. Bodine said Washington continued to press for the extradition of two Libyans who have been indicated in both Britain and the United

States in the attack.

"We feel very strong evidence against the two indicted Libyans, but we are serious in following up this lead to see if there is any veracity in it at all," Ms. Bodine said.

Youssef Shaaban, 29, a follower of Abu Nidal's Fateh Revolutionary Council, offered no details to substantiate his assertion. The bombing has in the past been blamed variously on Iran, then Syria and then Libya, which has been targeted by international sanctions.

"I personally blew up the Lockerbie plane," Mr. Shaaban told the six-person judicial council, the country's highest trial court. "I've told the investigating magistrate about it before but my con-

fession wasn't documented. I say it again now."

The court, presided over by Judge Philip Khairallah, admitted the confession into the minutes without comment.

But Examining Magistrate Saeed Mirza, who interrogated Shaaban in the Jan. 29 assassination of Jordanian diplomat Nayeb Maaytah, denied the suspect ever mentioned the Lockerbie bombing before.

"It's a mere lie. Had Youssef Shaaban confessed to such a case that still preoccupies the world, I would have given it utmost priority and investigated promptly," Mr. Mirza told the Associated Press. "I believe this confes-

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Parliament session adjourned

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Thursday holds its last meeting of its first extraordinary session amidst expectations lawmakers will seek a new session in light of the "delicate political developments" in the Kingdom's peace talks with Israel.

A Royal decree issued Monday ordered adjourned the session, during which the legislator passed a draft sales tax law which the government has said was essential to achieve progress in its talks with donor nations.

The session, which started in April, focused on legislative issues as its agenda was restricted to the topics laid down for it by the Royal Decree that summoned it. Unless it is called for another extraordinary session, the House will convene when its second ordinary session is due to start in October.

Parliamentary sources say some opposition deputies will request the convening of a new extraordinary session so that the House will "be able to play its role at a time when major developments are expected in the peace process."

Another reason cited for the lawmakers' desire to hold the session is the determination by some "opposition" deputies to have the government seek the confidence of the House on the basis of a new policy statement.

Parliamentary sources said some deputies believe a new vote of confidence, though not constitutionally required, is needed in light of the major reshuffle Dr. Majali introduced to the Cabinet Thursday.

With more than half the members of the Cabinet changed, some deputies said, the government no longer has a mandate from the House.

Many deputies were also angered by Dr. Majali for not consulting with the par-

(Continued on page 12)

North Korea says it quit IAEA

TOKYO (Agencies) — North Korea pulled out of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency Monday, shrouding its nuclear programme from world scrutiny in a sharp escalation in the 13-month-old Korean crisis.

The announcement by the official North Korean news agency KCNA was all the more defiant as it came on the eve of a visit to Pyongyang by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

The agency lashed out at attempts to impose sanctions against Pyongyang for refusing to throw open its nuclear sites to full outside inspection.

"In face of the folly of the IAEA which has taken unreasonable 'sanctions' against us and moreover is attempting to intrude even into our military sites... we will im-

mediately withdraw from the IAEA," it said.

The IAEA is the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency. Last week it suspended technical aid to the recalcitrant North Korean state.

"We will consider invalid all the unreasonable 'resolutions' adopted by the agency with regard to our issue until now, and will not be bound to any rules or resolutions of the agency hereafter," the KCNA dispatch said.

The dispatch, which quoted a statement from the North Korean Foreign Ministry, added: "Without the (IAEA), we can develop our independent nuclear power industry and expand international cooperation in the realm of nuclear activities."

In Vienna, IAEA spokesman Hans-Friedrich Meyer

said the agency had not yet heard of a North Korean decision to quit the agency.

In South Korea, the escalating tensions already had prompted the government Monday to order mobilisation of its 6.6 million reservists for the country's biggest civil-defence drill in years. The drill, to be held Wednesday, will involve all civil defence corps members, whose job is to organise evacuations and provide first aid for air-raid victims.

North Korea has accepted limited IAEA inspections but kept some key facilities closed, deepening suspicions that it is trying to build nuclear weapons.

The United States and its allies began proposing sanctions after the North refused a nuclear reactor in such a way that the IAEA could not

verify whether the North has not been diverting plutonium for possible weapons use.

North Korea's statement said the IAEA already had adopted its own sanctions by suspending assistance to the North.

"That the secretariat of the (IAEA) tried to impose its total inspection on us by threatening us with 'sanctions' is an intolerable insult to our people, who regard independence as what keeps them alive," the statement said.

It said, however, it still was deciding whether to return to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty or completely withdraw. The North has contended that it only suspended an earlier plan to withdraw, and thus was in a "unique status" in which it did not have to accept full inspections.

Socialists suffer setback in Euro-poll

Combined agency dispatches

THE PROSPECTS of Europe's Socialist parties looked dim Monday following a severe setback in elections to the European Parliament.

Socialists in France, Spain, Italy and Germany were licking their wounds as their parties, both in power and in opposition, under-performed in Sunday's polls.

Only in Britain, which voted Thursday did the main left-of-centre party have much to cheer about as Labour, benefiting from the first-past-the-post electoral system, scooped three-quarters of the seats to boost the Socialist contingent in the Strasbourg assembly.

French Socialists plunged into mutual reprimand after their leader Michel

Rocard, hoping to become his party's standard-bearer in presidential elections next year, garnered just 14.99 per cent of the poll, well below a target modestly set at 20 per cent.

Mr. Rocard was badly hurt by the fragmentation of the Socialist vote among rival lists headed by populist left-winger Bernard Tapie, who attracted an astonishing 12.5 per cent, and anti-European candidate Jean-Pierre Chevènement.

The result sparked speculation that his presidential hopes might not survive the post-mortem as the party sought a more charismatic figure to lead it into the April-May poll.

The poll, the fourth direct election to the European assembly since 1979, was largely dominated by such

domestic concerns, to the detriment of European debate.

Reflecting the lack of general interest in the European Parliament — seen as largely powerless despite an increase in its powers since the implementation last year of the Maastricht Treaty on European union — successive polls have seen already decline in turnout, starting at 63 per cent in 1979, but slipping this time to around 34 per cent.

Mr. Rocard's list failed even to benefit from the protest vote, boosted by widespread concern over unemployment, that hit the ruling parties in several countries.

Foremost among these was Felipe Gonzalez's Socialist Party in Spain, which combined a stinging defeat in the European poll with heavy losses in regional elections

conducted simultaneously, notably in Andalusia, Mr. Gonzalez's home region.

With only 22 seats in the new European assembly, down from 28, the Socialists found themselves overtaken by the rightwing Popular Party, which scored from 13 to 28.

Mr. Gonzalez brushed aside the result and said nothing would change. He gave no indication that he planned a change of policy.

The advances made by Italy's ruling right-wing coalition including neo-fascists left blood on the carpet of the two main left-of-centre parties as the leaders of the Party of the Democratic Left (PDS, ex-communist) and the Socialist Party (PSI) stepped down.

Israel issues more entry permits, eases restrictions

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel has eased restrictions on Palestinians in the occupied territories, issuing work permits for 10,000 in Gaza and the West Bank and tearing down a cement barricade in the city of Hebron.

The decision followed assessments by cabinet ministers at the weekly session Sunday that autonomous rule in Jericho and Gaza was running smoothly, and Palestinian police were operating satisfactorily, radio stations said.

Security officials reported a decline in Palestinian attacks on Israelis in the past month, reports added without giving figures.

"There is good potential here," Agriculture Minister Yaacov Tsur said on Israel Radio after a ride by Jericho, which gained autonomy along with the Gaza Strip in mid-May as part of the Sept. 13 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord.

Another 272 Palestinian troops from Tunisia, Algeria and Libya arrived in Gaza, crossing from the frontier with Egypt, Palestinian reports said. About 1,100 more

were due on Monday, which will bring the total police force in Gaza to about 3,500.

By adding 10,000 permits for construction workers, the government eased a more than 14-month closure on Gaza and the West Bank imposed after a series of stabbing attacks.

The permits brought to 45,000 the number of Palestinians allowed to work in Israel, still less than half the approximately 110,000 employed before the March 1993 restrictions.

In addition, Israel Television reported that Palestinian identity cards were being handed out for the first time in Gaza and Jericho, printed by Israel for the Palestinian autonomy authority. The documents are enveloped in green, rather than the orange-covered cards issued under Israeli rule.

In Hebron, the army removed a cement wall that blocked traffic through the city centre past Jewish areas, in addition to a marketplace shut since the Feb. 25 mosque massacre, the army said.

In the massacre an Israeli settler shot and killed more

than 30 Palestinians while at prayer at the massacre. Afterwards Israel clamped restrictions on the city's Arab population of 10,000 to prevent reprisal attacks. About 450 Israeli settlers live in Hebron.

Major General Ilan Biran, in charge of West Bank forces, was quoted saying that the site itself would remain shut in the coming weeks pending new security arrangements.

A military spokesman said Israel also opened the gates of occupied Jerusalem to all Palestinian women for the first time in more than a year.

"All Palestinian women, whatever their age, are allowed from now on to go to Jerusalem without having to ask for a permit," the spokesman told AFP.

Only certain categories, such as women aged over 40 or less than 16, had been allowed into the Holy City after it was closed to residents of the occupied territories in March 1993.

The lifting of the ban means that Palestinian women can freely enter Arab East Jerusalem.



SETTLER'S PROTEST: Jewish settlers from the Neama settlement chain themselves on the Israeli-Jordanian fence as a protest on Monday against the Israeli-PLO agreement, asking for more compensations from the Israeli government. Settlers claimed that their settlement bordering the Jericho autonomous area suffers from lack of security and accuse the Palestinians from destroying their fields and stealing animals from the farms (AFP photo)

Families press drive for news of missing Israelis

METULLA (AP) — Families of six missing Israeli servicemen waited in vain at a border fence Sunday for permission to launch their own search in Lebanon for troops who disappeared up to 12 years ago in a tank battle.

"We've dealt with people who have connections with Iran, with arms dealers, with crooks. The more you raise your hopes, the bigger your fall is," said Osnat Fink, a sister of one missing soldier, disappointed after an hour's wait in the hot sun by the "Good Fence" crossing into Lebanon.

The attempted crossing was one of a series of demonstrations by the families, frustrated at being kept in the dark for so many years — despite the Israeli peace accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the U.S.-brokered negotiations with Syria and Lebanon.

Some said they hoped that United Nations peacekeepers or international Red Cross officials could arrange permission from Lebanon for them to conduct a search, but this never materialised.

Timor Goksel, a spokesman for the peacekeepers known as the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), said they were "never involved at all" in the search.

The families needed Israeli permission to enter Lebanon and Lebanese permission to move around, he told the Associated Press.

The Israeli army spokesman's office said the families

never tried to get past their checkpoint, and had arrived mainly to protest.

Joel Leyden, a spokesman for the group, said they wanted to avoid entering Lebanon under Israeli protection, fearful this would make them "sitting ducks" if they tried to make contact with groups such as Hizbollah.

Before heading home, the group posted a sign renaming the Good Fence — a crossing point for Lebanese who work in Israel and for U.N. forces — the "Freedom Fence."

Three men went missing exactly 12 years ago in June 1982 in a tank battle in Sultan Yacoub in southeastern Lebanon near the border with Syria, a week after Israel invaded Lebanon to rout PLO guerrilla bases. Those missing are Zacharia Baumeil, Zvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz.

Two others, Fink and Rahamin Al Sheikh, disappeared in action in 1986. While Western hostages were being freed in Lebanon three years ago, Israel was given evidence that both had died in captivity, but their bodies were never recovered.

The sixth missing man, the only one Israel is reasonably certain is alive, is Ron Arad, an air navigator shot down during a bombing raid near Sidon in 1986. Israel has said it believes Arad is being held by Iranians.

Ms. Fink, 22, said she wanted to meet Lebanese officials in contact with the

Iranian-backed Hizbollah group believed to have seized her brother and Sheikh.

She said dissatisfied with the evidence of her brother's death, "We want his body back." She said negotiations by a third party she did not name were ensnared with Hizbollah, and alleged that they were making "unreasonable" demands.

Yona Baumeil, whose American-born son Zacharia was among those who disappeared in Sultan Yacoub, renewed an offer to help Palestinians find men they claim are missing from battles with the Israelis, in exchange for some help.

Mr. Baumeil said he told Ahmad Tibi, an Israeli Arab adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, "Give me ten, a dozen cases with solid documentation, I'll take them up."

Mr. Baumeil was in contact with the PLO even before the peace accord signed last September, in attempts to find his son.

In 1989 he negotiated a humanitarian release of Palestinian guerrilla leader Omar Qassem, who was jailed more than 20 years for a 1968 raid from Jordan, Qassem died of kidney failure before he could be freed.

Last year the PLO delivered half of Zacharia's dog tag to Mr. Baumeil, promising more information would follow, but it has not, he said.

Mr. Leyden said families had information that at least two of those who disappeared at Sultan Yacoub were alive.

International journalists to meet on Palestine

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prominent Arabs, Israelis, Palestinians and other Middle East experts from the fields of politics, academia and the media will meet in Elsinore, Denmark, from June 15 to 17 at an international encounter for journalists on the question of Palestine.

To be convened by the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) and hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, the encounter will review developments in the peace process since the signing, in Washington, D.C., last September, of the declaration of principles on interim self-government arrangements, including outstanding issues not covered by the Declaration. These are:

Israeli settlements, Jerusalem, the return of Palestinian refugees, future boundaries and the status of the Palestinian occupied territory. Further, the encounter will explore, "in a frank and informal manner," prerequisites for establishing a lasting peace through security, development and democratisation, a U.N. press release said.

Miels Helweg Petersen, minister for foreign affairs of Denmark, will open the encounter. Vladimir Petrovsky, director-general of the United Nations office at Geneva, will be the moderator.

The Elsinore encounter will be the fourth in a series launched three years ago by the DPI to promote dialogue between the two sides in the Middle East conflict. The first international encounter was convened in Helsinki (June 1-3, 1991), the second in Lisbon (September 16-17, 1992) and the third in London (June 9-11, 1993). Three DPI publications — "Prospects for Peace in the Middle East: An Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue," "Building for Peace in the Middle East: A European Perspective," and "Promoting a Culture for Peace in the Middle East: An Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue," provide an account of these proceedings.

The Assembly has stated its conviction that the world-wide dissemination of accurate and comprehensive information remains of vital importance in heightening awareness of and support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Yemen needs \$70m in aid

SANAA (AFP) — Yemen needs up to \$70 million worth of humanitarian aid after five weeks of civil war that have uprooted almost 500,000 people, a U.N. official said here Sunday.

U.N. Resident Coordinator Awni Al Ani told reporters almost half a million displaced people were sheltering in schools or with relatives or friends.

A mission travelled Sunday to the southern province to Lahij to assess the humanitarian needs, he said. It would report back Wednesday, and other missions were planned to Shabwa and Zinjibar, also in the southern wazone.

"From \$40 to \$70 million worth of aid is needed," including \$2 to \$3 million in emergency medical aid, he said.

Mr. Ani said that once it was possible to send a mission to the besieged southern stronghold of Aden, "we'll be there within six hours."

The United Nations was working on obtaining security guarantees from the Yemeni government to enable a mission to visit the city, hit by shortages of goods and services.

Palestinian 'ministries' housed in schools and old age home

By Karin Laub
The Associated Press

JERICHO — The transport, tourism and welfare ministries will be housed in a vocational school, the religious affairs minister is getting a room in the Islamic court, and Yasser Arafat's office will be in an old age home.

Short on money and anxious to dispel donor concerns about lavish spending, the Palestinians are making a bare-bones start in launching their new administration.

"It is very difficult to find buildings for the ministries because we don't have any money to spend," said Abdul Karim Sidr, a leading local Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official who has been scouting locations in this farming town of 15,000 that is to be the seat of government.

Last week, foreign governments authorised \$42 million in immediate aid for the Palestinian National Authority.

But Palestinian officials said this was not enough, noting much of the money will go for running costs such as salaries of policemen.

"We are not satisfied with this. We are waiting for the donor countries to implement their promises," Jamil Tarifi, a senior negotiator of the self-rule agreement, said Sunday.

In all, donor countries pledged more \$2.4 billion over five years to the self-rule government but have demanded the PLO set up proper accounting procedures before funds are delivered.

The Palestinian National Authority will only start working formally once Mr. Arafat comes to Jericho, bringing with him about half of the 18 ministers who still live abroad.

Mr. Arafat ordered the PLO offices in Tunis closed by Wednesday and many members of its bureaucracy are expected to move to Jericho. But Mr. Arafat's arrival date here remains a mystery.

On Sunday, Mr. Sidr received two computers, a fax machine, a photocopier, two typewriters and 12 tables for the office of Saeb Erakat, minister of municipal affairs. The equipment was donated by Al Najah university and businessmen in the West Bank town of Nabulus.

Dr. Erakat's office is located on the top floor of the two-storey Fitrani Vocational School, next to car repair shops and floor tile makers in Jericho's small industrial area.

Mr. Sidr said he bargained hard with local workmen to paint, rewire and install air conditioning on Mr. Erakat's floor, paying the small sum in three instalments.

It would cost about \$20,000 to fix up the rooms downstairs, earmarked for the economics and environmental protection ministries, but work has not yet begun for lack of money, Mr. Sidr said.

A greasy workbench and three old cars on which future mechanics honed their skills still stood in the courtyard.

The Bir Society Vocational School in the Aqabat Jaber refugee camp just outside town will house three ministries. Then set aside for tourism and welfare. They stood locked and empty Sunday.

At transportation in the dormitory wing there was

only a sign that a ministry would open soon. Piled up in a kitchen corner were the new government's forms for drivers' licenses and vehicle titles.

Mr. Arafat and about 200 PLO administrators will take over the new Jericho old age home, a 12-room building that was started by Israel's former military government.

With construction to be completed by the end of the month.

The PLO chairman is expected to replace the four ministries — the prime ministry, interior, police and finance — from the marble-walled, sun-flooded building surrounded by palm trees and fields in a Jericho residential area.

Mr. Tarifi said even though Jericho is the seat of government, ministries would set up

duplicate offices in former military government buildings in the Gaza Strip to serve the 800,000 Palestinians there.

Mr. Tarifi was not overly concerned by the makeshift setup, saying the question of a future capital will only be settled after the five-year interim autonomy period.

"In the beginning, we have to be in Jericho and Gaza. But the permanent locations of the ministries will be all over the West Bank," he said.

Although the PLO's future role is not clear, it is unlikely to be replaced entirely by the Palestinian National Authority. For example, because the autonomy cannot have foreign relations the PLO department that operates its international representations will remain in Tunis.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Eichmann execution a mistake — deputy

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel made a mistake in executing Nazi leader Adolf Eichmann and should have kept him alive in a glass cage to witness Israel's "achievements," a parliamentary official says. David Zucker, head of the parliamentary law commission, said during a weekend debate on Israeli military radio: "With hindsight, I think this execution has somewhat concealed the horrors of the Shoah" or Holocaust. "We should have kept him in a glass cage so that he could see what has been achieved here in Israel. That would have been a much harder sentence on him." Eichmann recommended ways to improve the efficiency of gas ovens used to kill people in concentration camps set up by the Nazis during World War II after he visited the Auschwitz camp in 1944. After the war, he fled to Argentina but was kidnapped by Israeli secret services and sentenced to death in 1961 after a trial occupied Jerusalem. He was executed the following year. But Parliamentary Speaker Shevah Weiss, who escaped from the Nazi camps, said the leaders of the Third Reich such as "Eichmann did not deserve to live because they had excluded themselves from the rules applied to mankind."

Top Rabin aide Neria resigns

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Jacques Neria, a central figure in the Middle East peace process, handed in his resignation on Sunday as political adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the premier's office said. Mr. Neria, a 43-year-old fluent Arabic speaker born in Lebanon and a colonel in military intelligence, took up the post in December 1992. His resignation takes effect next month, Israel Television said he had lost influence with the prime minister on the peace process. Mr. Neria helped draft the May 4 agreement signed by Mr. Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Cairo on the launch of Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. He now plans to work with Haim Ramon, the new leader of the Histadrut trade union federation and tipped as a candidate for the 1996 general election, according to the television.

Asylum seekers in Turkey 'not Mujahadeen'

NICOSIA (AFP) — Sixteen Iranian asylum-seekers facing expulsion from Turkey are not members of the armed opposition Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, the group said Sunday. "The persons in question are not in any way related to the Mujahadeen and its activities," it said in a statement. "The government of Turkey is responsible for the protection and safety of all Iranian asylum-seekers," the group said, a day after the Turkish news agency Anatolia said they were being expelled to Iraq. "If for whatever reason it does not wish to accept them, it must relocate them in European countries with the help of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees," said the Mujahadeen. It said the group had helped the 16 Iranians seek refuge in Turkey for humanitarian reasons only. They had been living in Ramadi, west of Baghdad, and some had been prisoners during the 1980-1988 war between Iran and Iraq. But Anatolia said the 16 had confessed to having entered Turkey with false passports and received military training at a Mujahadeen camp in Iraq. The Turkish Interior Ministry rejected their request for political asylum and drove them to Silopi on the Iraqi border, it reported, quoting a senior police official as saying the expulsion was a goodwill gesture to Iran.

26 soldier killed in five days in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — Twenty five armed fundamentalists and one member of the security forces were killed in different operations between Tuesday and Saturday last week, the Algerian security forces said Sunday. Eleven fundamentalists were killed Thursday in a clash between the security forces and a group of 13 armed people at Douaouda, 30 kilometres west of Algiers, the security forces said. The two other members of the group managed to escape while another fundamentalist was killed the same day at Relizane in western Algeria. Four fundamentalists were killed Friday, two at Hammam Righe, close to Ain Defla, one at Tisemsalt in the west and another in the Charene forest close to the eastern town of Setif. During the Setif operation, a member of the security forces was killed. Five fundamentalists were killed Wednesday in clashes in the Bouchitane forest close to Medea in the south, the security forces added. Three were killed Tuesday in operations at 'Ain Tin, close to Batna in the east and in Djebel Boumeche, close to Sidi Bel Abbes in the west. A fundamentalist was killed Saturday at bouchrit, close to Mostaganem in the west.

Kolleck invites King Hussein to Jerusalem

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The former Israeli mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kolleck, said Monday he had invited King Hussein to come and pray in the Holy City. Mr. Kolleck told state radio he sent the invitation about six weeks ago in a bid to bolster relations and had tacit support from the government. There had been no answer from Amman. "I thought it would be a good thing for King Hussein and for us if he would come in his own helicopter and visit the mosque and pray there and visit his great-grandfather, Sherif Hussein Bin Ali, grave. Mr. Kolleck recalled that King Hussein had been present on the temple mount in the Old City when his grandfather King Abdullah was assassinated on July 20, 1951. The ex-mayor said he believed such a visit "would strengthen the relationship. I still think it will be good for us." I sent this message through a trusted friend and I asked everybody in the foreign ministry and the prime minister's office." Mr. Kolleck said he had had "no reaction yet, but you never know."

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:00	Envoye Special
18:30	News in French
18:45	Grande Galop
19:00	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Step by Step
21:10	Moon Over Miami
22:00	News in English
22:30	
PRAYER TIMES	
6:30	Fajr
6:55	Sunrise (Doha)
12:36	Dhuhr
16:16	'Asr
19:46	Maghreb
21:22	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church	
St. Basil, Tel. 81740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Sante Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 632541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772611	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Fine weather conditions will prevail with winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	18 / 32
Aqaba	23 / 36
Desert	16 / 33
Jordan Valley	21 / 35
Yesterday's high temperatures:	
Amman 32, Aqaba 37, Humidity readings: Amman 12 per cent, Aqaba 17 per cent.	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Rafiq Zaitoun	886685
Dr. Farouq Nour	786480
Dr. Jibed Zaid	81148
Dr. Bahjat Badr	849562
Firas pharmacy	661912
Pedrows pharmacy	786336
Al Azem pharmacy	670705
Natrouk pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Sunecsi pharmacy	637660
Natrouk pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Akram Momoni	()
Alquds pharmacy	985417
ZARQA:	
Dr. Issa Omtari	901266
Khalil pharmacy	985417
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Food Control Centre	637111

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
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Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	630341
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Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	
(Directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	042310
Jordan Electricity Authority	
Electric Power	815615
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	642481/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mahbas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shamsi	664171/4
Shamsi Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37

Bank employees win pay raise following strike, court ruling

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Middle East Investment Bank employees who staged a work strike last February for better pay conditions are to get pay increases ranging from JD 10 to JD 20 per month in addition to an extra family allowance, according to a ruling by the Industrial Court announced Monday.

The court, which settles labour disputes in the country, was requested to handle the bank case last March following the dispute between the bank's management and the employees represented by the Union of Bank and Insurance Company Workers.

The pay increases to take effect starting next month

entail a raise of JD 20 on the basic salary of employees who earn less than JD 400 a month, while those receiving more than JD 400 a month will receive a JD 10 increment.

The court also recommended that the bank's management modernise and upgrade its salary and increments scale in line with the cost of living and parallel to the salary scales of other banks operating in Jordan.

The court also ruled that the health insurance scheme in force be expanded to cover dental services not exceeding JD 20 annually per employee.

The bank will also pay no more than JD 20 for eye glasses or contact lenses for employees once every two

years and 90 per cent of the cost of eye treatment for bank employees, according to the ruling.

The court also demanded the bank charge its employees no more than five per cent interest on loans from the bank.

It said the bank's contribution to the employee savings fund should be increased to 10 per cent, up from the present 7.5 per cent.

According to the final verdict, a married male employee would get JD 15 up from JD 10 as a family allowance in addition to the allowances for his children under the regular system of benefits.

The estimated 130 employees will benefit from the court's decision starting July 1, 1994.

Government, industries agree to form panel to ease application of sales tax

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Government officials and the Chamber of Industry have agreed to set up a joint committee along with representatives of the various industrial sectors to facilitate the application of the newly-enforced sales tax.

However, it could be one year before all issues related to the levy, which went into force this month, are clarified and an efficient and well-understood administrative and technical system is in place to collect the tax, said Khalidoun Abu Hassan, chairman of the Chamber of Industry.

Economic analysts and observers say that the government has to exert an extra effort to make the tax system understandable to the business community if only because there are numerous overlapping of sectors and goods, including local and imported raw materials and finished products, covered under the levy.

"Having accepted the concept that sales tax was an inevitable factor in Jordanians' life, one now has to look at its applications and seek means to avoid duplicate taxation," said an expert.

"A system has to be in place as soon as possible. Otherwise gross manipulations of the law and exploitation of consumers would only be consolidated."

At this point in the imple-

mentation of the levy, consumers are not directly involved except as the ultimate payers. Market prices of items should be inclusive of the levy wherever applicable without any additions by the wholesale/distributor/retail outlets.

The tax is levied on imported products at the customs point and for local products at the point of departure to the market — the manufacturing facilities.

Importers/manufacturers can claim refund/adjustment of the tax paid on imported raw materials against the tax they paid on the final product.

A value-added system — where retailers are the collecting point for the tax — will come into force in the second phase of the law, expected to be implemented in five years.

According to Mr. Abu Hassan, the prices of some items should actually go down where the applicable rate of sales tax was seven per cent instead of a 10 per cent consumption that the sales tax replaced.

"Some prices are bound to go up and others should remain stable," Mr. Abu Hassan said.

Speaking one day after a four-and-a-half hour session at the Chamber of Industry with senior officials directly in charge of applying the sales tax, Mr. Abu Hassan said Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali had promised to set up a ministerial level



Khalidoun Abu Hassan

panel with industrialists and top-level experts to study the ramifications of the levy.

This committee, he said, will study the various points raised by the industrialists in terms of the extent of the sales tax and items covered under the levy and perhaps reconsider the list of exemptions.

The panel that was agreed to be formed during Sunday's meeting at the Chamber of Commerce will include mostly bureaucrats from the Customs and Sales Tax departments, Chamber of Industry and Chamber of Commerce officials and representatives of the various segments of the industrial sector.

The Chamber of Industry has 13 such "sub-sector committees" which represent the interests of producers of

foodstuffs, paper, plastic items, confectionery, hardware, clothes etc., Mr. Abu Hassan said.

"Each segment will draw up separate questions on aspects of the sales tax pertaining to them and the officials will provide detailed answers to them," said Mr. Abu Hassan. "This is one of the best means for a direct and official clarification which would leave no room for ambiguities."

At Sunday's gathering, the heads of the customs and sales tax departments of the Ministry of Finance answered businessmen's questions on the various aspects of the sales tax and the modalities of its applications.

Mr. Abu Hassan said most industrialists felt that "60 to 75 per cent of their questions were satisfactorily answered" by the officials.

"It is a continuing process," said Mr. Abu Hassan. "If need be, we will organise another such encounter," he told the Jordan Times, adding that more than 700 people attended the meeting at the Chamber of Industry auditorium, which can hold only 300.

Mr. Abu Hassan said the Chamber of Industry presented 60 written questions to Nazmi Abdullah, head of the Customs Department, and Saud Abdul Kader, chief of the Sales Tax Department, during the session in addition to another 60 from the audience.

Most of the questions

raised during the gathering were related to how an importer/manufacture could avoid paying tax twice — first on imported raw material at the customs point and again when the finished product leaves the factory to be used in manufacturing goods for exports will be handled; whether the levy is applicable to machinery and equipment used in the production of goods exempt from the levy; how the confidentiality of prices and suppliers could be maintained in the process; what kind of books and entries are to be kept to satisfy the tax department; how classifications are made on the exempted products, etc.

"We are satisfied with the outcome of the meeting, where many issues were clarified," he said. "Other issues have to be clarified and we hope to do this by resubmitting written questions to the officials."

The Chamber of Industry plans to publish the questions and answers in a book form to help all concerned understand the Sales Tax Law and how the various sectors of the business community are directly and indirectly affected by its implementation.

"However, I believe that it could be one year before an effective system is in place to implement the law in all its aspects," said Mr. Abu Hassan, noting that the concept of sales tax was relatively new to Jordan.

Jordan, Germany to study impact of advanced water pumping project

AMMAN (J.T.) — The German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) Monday signed an agreement at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) to conduct a study entitled "Sociological Accompaniment of the Photovoltaic Water Pumping Project," according to an RSS statement Monday.

The study, which will be supervised by RSS, will tackle socio-economic, cultural, and health conditions of residents using photovoltaic (the science of using cells to convert solar energy into electricity) to pump ground water from wells in several badia regions for drinking and cattle breeding purposes.

The proposed study also includes an analysis of the role of women in the overall activities of the areas included in the study, said the statement.

Expected to take 10 months, the study will also investigate means to ensure suitable and economic water consumption by the residents of the areas under study and

monitor the socio-economic changes in these regions.

During the last three years, the RSS in cooperation with several German scientific institutions including the GTZ, conducted a pioneering project at the national level which included the introduction of photovoltaic technology to Jordan as well as its exploration in pumping underground water from 14 sites in various parts of the country.

In this framework, photovoltaic cells were used also to generate electricity in several remote areas including 15 police stations, 5 clinics, 4 communication sites, 8 schools, apart from the many sites throughout Jordan where solar and wind energy technologies are used as an alternative to conventional energy sources such as oil and gas.

Jordan is one of the leading countries in the world in using renewable energy, particularly solar energy, as an alternative to conventional energy.

RSS was chosen by the German government, the

GTZ and other German scientific institutions to serve as their technical consultant in implementing similar projects in Third World countries within the framework of a north-south and south-south cooperation.

The scientific and technical cooperation between RSS and the German scientific institutions falls within the framework of the scientific and technical cooperation protocol signed between Jordan and Germany in 1977.

The German technical aid to RSS during the past years enabled RSS to build up several infrastructure facilities and laboratories, and execute several joint projects and applied research studies in the fields of renewable energy, socio-economic affairs, and other areas.

The new agreement with GTZ was signed by Reinhold Werr, head of the GTZ office in Amman, Mohammad Halaiqah, deputy secretary general of the Higher Council for Science and Technology, and Said Aloush, RSS vice president.

Business team to head for Canada in pursuit of better commercial ties

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A 25-member delegation of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) will visit Canada later this month to seek ways to promote Jordanian-Canadian commercial ties and adjust the balance of trade between the two countries, according to Ali Yousef, JBA director.

Mr. Yousef told the Jordan Times Sunday that JBA Chairman Hamdi Tabbaa will lead the group which consists of five permanent members of the Canada-Jordan Business Council (CJBC) formed last year and 20 businessmen concerned with developing commercial ties with Canada.

The coming meetings, to be held in Montreal and Toronto between June 27 and 30, will take place under the umbrella of the CJBC which was set up by businessmen from both sides in order to promote trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

It should be noted, Mr. Yousef said, that Jordan's overall trade with Canada is negligible compared with Jordan's overall volume of trade with other countries.

Whereas Canada's annual exports to Jordan ranged between \$15 million and \$55 million between 1987 and 1992, Jordan's exports to that country are not worth mentioning, said Mr. Yousef.

He said the delegation visiting Canada this month will try to put forth ideas aimed at increasing trade and stimulating Canada's imports from Jordan.

Jordan, he said, can be an important trade partner to Canada not only on the domestic market level but also on a regional level, especially for neighbouring states because of Jordan's central geographical location in the Middle East.

In addition, Jordan offers a favourable investment climate which encourages the establishment of joint ventures between businessmen on both sides, Mr. Yousef said.

When asked about commodities which Canada could purchase from Jordan, Mr. Yousef said Canadians have already bought limited amounts of vegetables and fruits, especially in winter, but the delegation will urge more such exports.

He said the Jordanian delegation will encourage sales of Jordanian phosphate and pharmaceuticals

to Canadian markets, but special attention will be given to tourism.

Mr. Yousef said the businessmen will try to urge Canadian firms to set up hotels and other tourist facilities in the Jordan Valley, Aqaba and other attractions, and will call for combining Canadian technology with Jordanian human and financial resources in joint ventures in the Kingdom's free trade zones.

He said that products manufactured by such ventures could be sold in other Middle East countries as well as in Jordan.

Furthermore, Mr. Yousef said, the Jordanian delegation will point out to the Canadian side that the Kingdom deserves assistance for its loss of at least 10,000 businessmen who migrated to Canada with their capital, which has contributed towards Canada's economy.

Since the early 1980s, explained Mr. Yousef, there has been a migration of people to Canada from the Middle East, and a great number of Jordanians settled in Canada with their capital and expertise causing a severe drain of capital, skilled and qualified labour, and academicians on the Kingdom.

Cancer centre seeks surcharge on cigarettes

AMMAN (J.T.) — The national task force working on Al Amal Cancer Centre project will soon submit a formal request to the government to impose a surcharge on cigarettes or any other carcinogenic substances, according to Raef Nijem, a member of the task force.

He said in a statement quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Monday that a one piaster surcharge on each packet of cigarettes would yield the JD 3.5 million annually needed to cover part of the centre's operational costs and to help in the establishment of a residential quarter for the centre's nurses.

Mr. Nijem said that the task force has so far collected JD 11 millions cash donations from the public since 1984. The task force has also been receiving in-kind donations such as vehicles, jewelry, land and other items worth a total of JD 500,000, added Mr. Nijem.

According to Mr. Nijem there have been no donations from Arab, Islamic or foreign countries except the Jeddah-based Islamic Bank which contributed JD 3.5 million for the purchase of medical equipment.

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — George Bahgory would not betray himself as a man with a great sense of humour at first sight. An artist, yes. A bohemian, again yes. But the great caricaturist that he is can only be discovered by looking at his drawings and, if time and company permits, by talking to him and sharing in his laughter.

Flamboyantly dressed, sporting a beard and long curly hair, Mr. Bahgory's look belies his age. And also his character, that of observer of the human condition which he sublimates through his art.

An accomplished artist, he paints, sculpts, draws and tries to understand humanity.

For the second consecutive year in Jordan, exhibiting his work at the Balka Art Gallery, this well-known Egyptian artist is drawn to the region because "my people understand me better, they are my best admirers and clients."

The painter-caricaturist with dark, penetrating eyes, who lives in Paris, but feels "a bit isolated in the West" and plans to come home one day, seems impregnated by the Mediterranean, slow-paced living.

A measured gait and ges-

Arab pharmaceutical industry to study quality manufacturing of its products

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will take part in a two-day meeting due to open in Damascus this week to discuss ways to ensure quality pharmaceutical products manufactured in the Arab World.

Nizar Jardaneh, chairman and secretary general of the Arab Union of Pharmaceutical Manufacturing and Medical Appliances, which is organising the meeting, told the Jordan Times that the six Jordanian pharmaceutical companies and the four factories manufacturing veterinary products in Jordan will be represented at

the coming meeting opening on Wednesday.

The World Health Organisation (WHO), which issues guidelines for pharmaceutical manufacturing, and the European Union (EU) will also be represented.

The theme of the meeting is "Stability Studies in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing," said Mr. Jardaneh.

The two-day meeting is part of ongoing efforts to develop the Arab pharmaceutical industry, enabling it to cope with modern scientific and technological trends in advanced industrialised nations, Mr. Jardaneh said.

He said Arab health ministry representatives will discuss topics such as assessment of the stability, duration and effectiveness of medicines, physical, chemical and biological factors which influence stability, legislation governing the production and distribution of drugs in Europe, Japan and the United States and WHO's regulations concerning drug manufacturing.

Quality control of medicine production, registration of new drugs and development of facilities of pharmacy at Arab universities will be among the topics for discussion, added Mr. Jardaneh.

He said the Jordanian delegation will group representatives of the health ministry as well as Jordanian pharmaceutical companies.

On the sidelines of the Damascus meeting the union's board and general assembly will hold meetings to review a generally financial and activity report on the union's work in 1993 and examine and endorse this year's budget, according to Mr. Jardaneh.

The report, he said, covers the impact of the newly-signed General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) on the pharmaceutical industry of the Arab World.

WHAT'S GOING ON

LECTURE

★ Lecture entitled "The American Political Scene — How It Works" by Dr. Marwan Measher at the American University of Beirut (AUB) Club in Jabal Amman at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of photographs by artist Khaled Sa'ad at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Painting exhibition by artist George Bahjouri at Al Balqa Art Gallery (Tel. 720677).

★ Painting exhibition by Jordanian artist Abdul Ra'uf Shammoun at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

★ Plastic art exhibition by artist Mohammad Al Ameri entitled "Body" at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).

Extracting human nature's innermost traits

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

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A measured gait and ges-

tures only manage to accentuate the apparently "uninterested" gaze that can so well extract the innermost trait of one's character and, in a matter of minutes, reproduce it in a telling caricature.

Under this seemingly nonchalant outlook lies an inquisitive mind and a keen scholar of human nature. "I like to watch people, to observe them," said the artist who after 30 years of work has 100 albums of drawings, "all my travels and encounters, all the faces I have seen" still waiting for a publisher, unknown to the public eye.

A look at Mr. Bahgory's caricatures reveals a highly perceptive man who, from the eyes, the mirror of the soul, builds up living, expressive faces.

It all started with the child who hated the step-mother and showed his dislike by drawing her as a monster, "the monster of my childhood."

Listening to the anecdotes dotting his life is discovering a precocious child-artist rebelling against family, school, authority.

When one of his school teachers (when Bahgory was about eight) could not ingratiate himself with the children, the young Mr. Bahgory started mocking his tutor with his drawings

and got himself sent home for the offence in the process.

In 1951, he enrolled at the Academy of Fine Arts in Egypt. Bicar, the teacher, a famous artist himself, "taught me everything." He was also "the only one to admire and understand my satire," said Mr. Bahgory, adding that now he is known mostly as a caricaturist in the Arab press and in Paris, something he seems not overly happy about, especially as painting is his "biggest love."

His current works at the Riwaq Gallery give him the satisfaction of presenting himself to the public as a painter. Oils and acrylics, his abstract works are mostly faces, with eyes looking at the viewer in the same way the artist looks at his subject.

His mild manner hides his audacity. He is the first to dare draw Gamal Abdul Nasser's caricature with his big nose, a feat that made his editor-in-chief at the time, Ihsan Abdel Qadous (of the weekly 'Rosa Al Yousef') see trouble brewing. But "Nasser was happy, he recognised his character in the paper."

This is the professed creed of the artist who avows looking for a trait "that dominates the soul but is invisible and which I



George Bahgory

eventually find." That must have prompted his friend and colleague Abdel Moni Hijazi to paste the motto "How to see what is not seen" on his studio door.

Searching and waiting for the soul to speak is some-

thing Mr. Bahgory seems to do best. And it is not a sterile wait, as his works prove.

His "probing" paintings will be on display until July 12.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Senate to discuss standards law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) meets today to discuss a memorandum by Lower House Speaker Taher Masihi which referred back to the Senate the standards and specifications draft law which was already passed by the House.

Minister receives Indian team

AMMAN (Petra) — Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif Monday received at the ministry a visiting Indian delegation for talks on means of enhancing Jordanian-Indian relations. The meeting was attended by Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General Ghaleb Abu

Urabi and other ministry officials. The delegation is visiting several Jordanian institutions for talks with their officials on enhancing bilateral cooperation, particularly increasing India's imports of Jordanian phosphates and potash.

British navy ship docks in Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — A British Royal Navy ship, the H.M.S. Cumberland, arrived in Aqaba Sunday on a three-day visit to Jordan. The press officer onboard said the visit was part of exchanged visits "with friends in Jordan with the aim of enhancing bilateral relations." He said the ship's crew of 280 will visit several archaeological sites in the Kingdom, including Wadi Rum and Petra.

Jordan Times

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Controversy over union

THE HIGHER Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution broke new controversial grounds when it decided recently that teachers employed by the Ministry of Education cannot establish an association of their own. In reaching this judgement, the council took the tortuous path of first ruling that both the executive as well as the legislative branches of government have the right to legislate as evidenced by Article 120 of the Constitution, which accords the executive branch the right to make administrative rules pertaining to state bureaucracy, the jurisdiction and authority of government departments and the officials that man them as well as the manner state employees can be appointed in, promoted or expelled. On the strength of this particular constitutional provision, the council decided that Parliament cannot enact laws that would enable public teachers to form their own association because any such action by Parliament would trespass on the prerogatives of the executive branch.

We differ with this interpretation. We see nothing in proper reading and interpretation of Article 120 that could prevent teachers from forming their own association to deal with matters and concerns that do not overlap with the contents of that provision or repudiate them. As long as teachers seek to have their own "club" to promote their professional interests and advancement by advising or counseling the executive branch on how best to carry its mandate and authority, there can be no legitimate reason to outlaw a teachers' association. Reasonable construction of Article 120, therefore, would not absolutely preclude the creation of a teachers' association.

In terms of international law, the ruling of the Higher Council is also wanting. Jordan has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and accordingly any law that runs counter to the provisions of the covenant cannot be upheld. Article 22 of the ICCPR is clear on the point of associations. It reads as follows: "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests." In this light alone, the right to join trade unions is the principle and not the exception. But, Paragraph 2 of the same Article is even more forceful. It reads as follows: "No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those which are prescribed by law and which are necessary in democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order, the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others." Thus we are at pains to see where the formation of a teachers' association could be viewed as harmful to public order within the purview of this international rule.

In the final analysis, though, what should determine this issue is the purpose and mandate of the proposed teachers' union. As long as the goals and tools of the association are legitimate, there should be no reason to outlaw it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Monday discussed the educational system in the Kingdom, expressing the view that numerous issues awaiting the new minister of education to be solved and wishing him success in his most difficult mission. Jamal Naji said that despite the past efforts and the current attempts for overhauling the system, the educational process is far from being satisfactory. Problems like raising the qualifications of teachers and improving the general environment in schools have been growing over the years and the Ministry of Education faces no easy task, said the writer. If anything, the general situation is deteriorating in many of the schools where students are openly smoking, fighting one another with knives, attacking their teachers and forming gangs to attack others either in the school yards or on the streets at the same time. As beating students is not allowed any more in schools, teachers resort to other severe method to force the students to obey orders like forcing them to clean up school yards, stand on one foot for a long time and tamper with students grades at the end of the school year. These and other issues are wide spread in government schools and, said the writer, they await serious efforts to solve them.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily urged the Arabs to follow the example of Turkey and open up their borders and resume their normal trade relations with Iraq. It is true that Turkey is now embarking on this step to serve its own interests but it is a step that should be taken by Arab states for a different or similar reasons, said Taher Al Adwan. The writer said that it is not the United States which is responsible for starving the Iraqi people but rather the Arab and Islamic countries which prevent food and medicine to reach the Iraqi children and sick people. What should further encourage the Arabs to follow Turkey's example is the change that occurred in the stands of France, Russia and China with regard to the sanctions as these countries do not show any objection relaxing or lifting the embargo, said the writer. It is not enough for Arab states to issue slogans about solidarity among their countries, said the writer. What is important is to end the sanctions on Arab people facing starvation.

The View from Fourth Circle

Levantine panic, musical chairs and inflatable chickens

By Rami G. Khouri

THE PANIC season is upon us, or so we may judge by the words and actions of assorted folks in the neighbourhood. While panic is a wasteful and unnecessary emotion, it is probably inevitable in the current circumstances. Therefore, we should deal with it in a rational manner, understand it and seek to eliminate it from our future.

The time for diplomatic niceties is over, and realism is the order of the day. Jordan and many Jordanians seem concerned that the pace of implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian accords might threaten Jordanian national interests if Jordan waits on the sidelines and does not act to ensure its strategic interests. After the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Israel accords were reached, largely without consulting other interested Arab parties, Jordan reached quick agreement with Israel on procedures to demarcate borders, apportion water rights and address longer term issues such as environmental protection and cross-border development projects. This is a reasonable and useful step forward in the overall process of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, but it comes within a regional political context that is contentious, even suspicious, at times.

Jordan and the PLO are passing through a difficult moment in their bilateral relations, with both sides' actions frequently guided by fear. Jordanian government officials openly criticise the PLO-Israel accords in the international press. In the New York Times late last month (May 28), a government minister said Jordan had been kept out of the process of working out the future economy of Palestine, and had to live with whatever the Israelis and Palestinians agreed upon. An unnamed senior Jordanian official was quoted characterising the self-rule accord as being filled with "half-backed ideas and solutions that could lead to chaos."

PLO officials respond in the international press by saying that their economy is vulnerable; they want to take control of it from Israel gradually, but they are suspicious of Jordanian motives. A senior Palestinian official was quoted in the same New York Times as saying: "We are very vulnerable... and we do not entirely trust the motives of the Jordanians."

How do we reconcile these realities with the many expressions of support and brotherly bonds between Jordan and Palestine? I, for one, am more confused than usual, and I would like to respectfully request Jordanian and Palestinian officials to step back from this growing tendency for public accusations and instead to work out their problems in a more thoughtful and mature manner.

At the same time, we read press reports that officials of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon are considering forming an economic association or some sort of loose regional grouping that would work towards integration of these three states; we

hear that one reason for such thinking is to counter the potentially negative impact of the Israel-PLO economic accords on these three countries.

A few days later, we read that the meetings of the Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee, scheduled for Amman this week, have been postponed, reportedly because of Syrian displeasure with Jordanian speedy procedural accord with Israel on delineating frontiers, water rights and other issues. Jordan, for its part, clearly states that it cannot wait eternally for total simultaneity in progress in the negotiations among Israel, Syria, Lebanon and the PLO. If Jordan were to wait much longer, official thinking goes, our national rights might be compromised by Israel and our national status and role in the region might be marginalised.

These issues are at once important, confused and conducive to the politics of both melancholy and hysteria. It would be easy but wrong to single out one Arab country — Syria, Jordan and the PLO are all candidates — and assign it primary blame for the present state of affairs. No single party is more or less at fault than the others. This is not a morality play in which one can easily identify the forces of good and evil. This is a Shakespearean tragedy writ on the scale of the entire Middle East, measured in the time frame of the entire 20th century, whose actors are nation states that are essentially good and honourable, but that suffer a debilitating tragic flaw.

What we witness and participate in today is the expression of that sad but inevitable flaw — our inability as sovereign states to stand on our own two feet, or to promote coherent regional integration, in a region battered by the after-shocks of half a millennium of Ottoman and European imperial control, and exhausted by the sustained self-exploitation of its own political and commercial elites. All of us in this region engage today in the demanding final scramble for sub-national survival that was initiated around 1920 when the Arab Nation, or the Arab region, was divided into its current jigsaw puzzle of states that are more notable for the fact that they are smug, sudden and serendipitous than for their historical logic, their contemporary socio-economic viability, or their future developmental prospects.

I am not surprised that Jordan, Palestine, Israel, Syria and Lebanon should be the leading actors in this awkward Levantine drama, for they are the only regional candidates left to compete for the scraps of national authenticity and durability that will fall of the table of modern Middle Eastern history. Everyone else in the area is strangely accounted for: bought and protected by neo-imperial tutelage (Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia), destroyed (Iraq, Somalia, Yemen, Libya), locked into old world ideological frenzy or high-tech

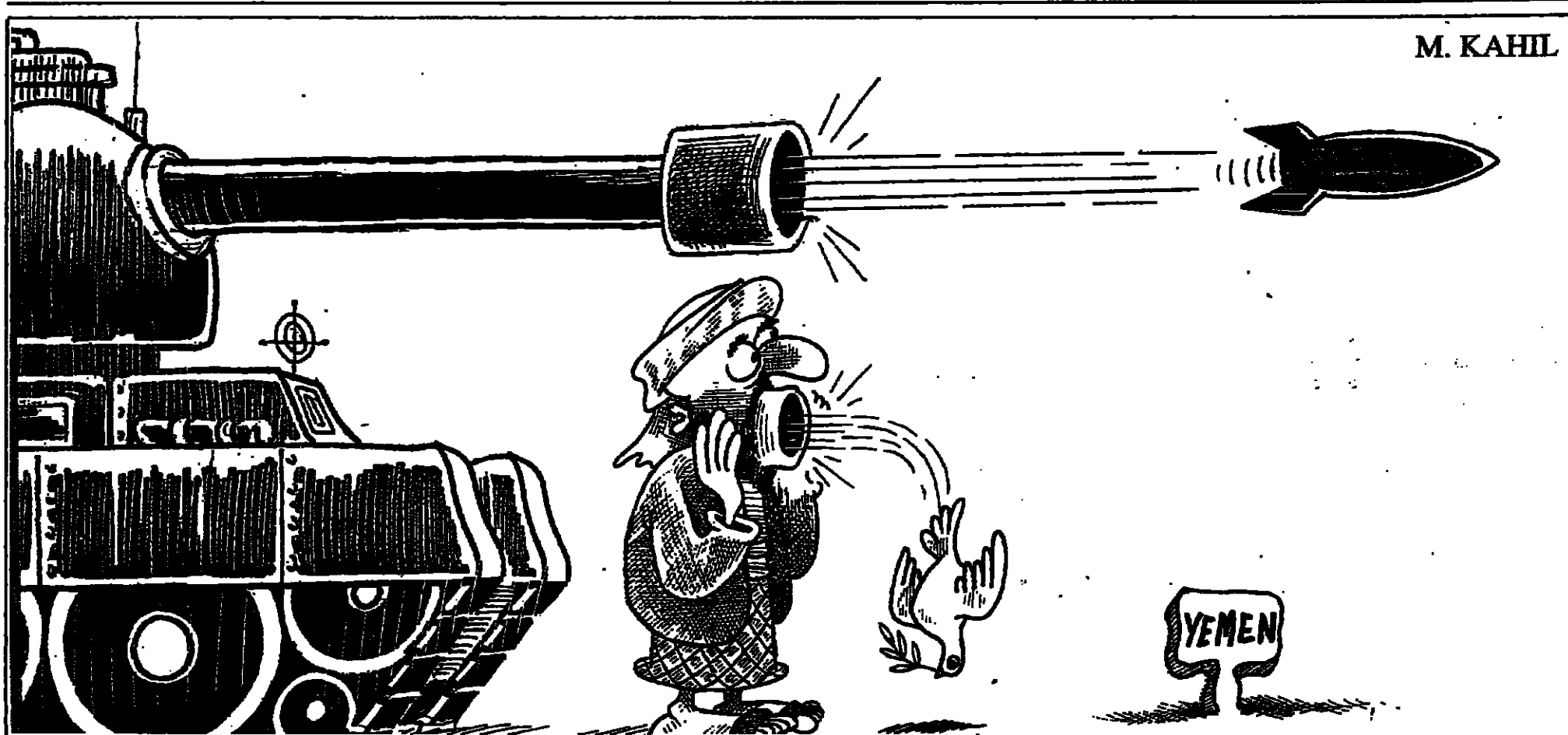
neo-autocracy (Iran, Sudan, Algeria, Tunisia, Djibouti), or cruising well away from the rough and tumble of this violent and dangerous neighbourhood (UAE, Oman, Bahrain, Morocco).

Panic is an ungainly and uncomfortable motivator — an embarrassing legacy of the recent past, and an awkward travelling companion on the road to the future. But panic is the defining emotion of the moment in our region, and we should get used to it, much as we may dislike it or try to camouflage it under the guise of legalistic niceties, tactical cleverness, or nationalistic bombast. It all boils down to the same thing in the end — the screeching wall of those who fear the future because they are not deeply rooted in the past, and therefore will accept whatever they can get out of the vending machine of contemporary history, even a plastic ring, an inflatable chicken, a stale chocolate bar, or a little piece of land, some water and the shade of a lone tree.

This situation is all the more sad because it does not have to be like this. The people of Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Israel do not necessarily have to engage in this dark and fearful drama. They are obliged neither by their cultural vitality nor by their historical depth to scurry for survival, and to run ever faster in the humiliating game of national musical chairs that was set up for us decades ago by men, greedy and distant maestros. When the music stops next time, which state will be born which will disappear? Whom does one trust in order to make it into the next decade? Whom does one consult to discover the secrets of national longevity? Whom does one ravage or betray to feed the next generation of one's own children?

Rarely in modern or ancient history have the political actors of this region had to enter into the season of panic in such a fearful state. Rarely have so many of us looked so sad, for so long, and for such illusory stakes. The people of this region will overcome this season, though, as they have overcome others in the past. In the meantime, let us hope that in the coming months and years we can minimise the damage that will be done by our collective frenzied state of mind. That may be our most noble and realistic goal in the short run.

It is probably too much to expect the Levantine political leaderships and people to pause for a moment, recognise the nature and the cause of the panic that has gripped them, reject it as inappropriate and unnecessary, stop the music, and refuse to play this game of national musical chairs any longer. It may be too much to expect, but it remains the right thing to do, and most of us around here are sure of that — despite the allure of the music, the promise of the vending machine and the cool temporary shade of a solitary tree.



Sharif Hussein and developments leading to the Arab Revolt

By Suleiman Mousa

SHARIF HUSSEIN Ben Ali's prominent place in modern Arab history reflects his role as leader of the first overt Arab nationalist movement calling for the independence of the Arabs of the Mashriq.

Sharif Hussein, a man of independent mind and strong character, was a leading member of Dhawi 'Awn, the ruling branch of the Hashimites in Mecca. When he was 40 years old, he openly opposed the injustices that were oppressing the people: actions committed by Ottoman officials with the acquiescence of his cousin 'Awn Al Rafiq, the ruling emir. A number of religious dignitaries sent petitions to the Sultan complaining against the emir and other leading officials. Sharif Hussein was suspected of being the instigator and was therefore banished to Istanbul. At the same time, five religious dignitaries considered adherents of Sharif Hussein were banished to various places in the Hijaz.

Although the Sultan had said that he intended to look after him in Istanbul and appoint him a member of the State Council, his stay there, which his son the late King Abdullah, described as one of "compulsion and constraint", totalled 16 years (1895-1908). During his time in Istanbul, the residence of the Sharif was a haven for Ottoman liberals who came to discuss their problems. These years of "banishment and expatriation" were years of meditation, waiting and rich experience. They contrasted with the following 16 years (1908-1924), which the

Sharif spent in the Hijaz in a position of considerable responsibility.

The development of Sharif Hussein's nationalist ideology can be followed by studying his policies on the one hand and by examining the writings of his two sons, King Abdullah and King Faisal, who shared his ideological perspective, on the other. King Abdullah was of the opinion that the Committee of Union and Progress (CUP), which dominated Ottoman politics after 1908, was in essence a Turkish nationalist group which pursued a policy of subjecting the other nationalities of the Ottoman state to the rule of the Turks. He believed that, as a result of that racial policy, many non-Turkish Ottomans came to feel "they had become Turkish subjects", not Ottoman citizens, as they used to be prior to 1908.

According to King Abdullah, the Arabs used to say to the Turks: "You and we are the basic materials of Islam", to which the CUP replied, "Yes, but we are the masters and you are the followers." This policy had changed the political structure of the Ottoman Empire, he felt, from a Muslim state headed by the Ottoman Sultan, the caliph of the Muslims, to a Turkish state ruled by members of the CUP.

Immediately upon his arrival in the Hijaz in December 1908, Sharif Hussein told members of the local CUP that they must stop meddling in politics. He also declared that he intended to exercise all the original rights and privileges of his position as emir and Sharif of Mecca. Sharif Hussein held a general meeting for the population as

soon as he reached Mecca. He thereafter made personal contact with all categories of people, hearing their grievances and solving their problems. He did not allow people to take their personal cases involving civil rights to any other court. Gradually he became the first and last resort in the Hijaz, particularly for tribesmen, thus bypassing the central administrative and judicial structures which the Ottoman government was seeking to extend to the Hijaz.

The Sharif worked hard to weaken the authority of the valis and other government officials. He urged the notables of the Hijaz to complain to Istanbul against those who opposed his will, thereby effecting the transfer or dismissal of unwanted valis. During the tenure of Sharif Hussein as Emir of Mecca (1908-1916) eight men held the office of vali in Hijaz: Kazim Pasha, Fu'ad Pasha, Kamal Bey, Hazem Bey, Ahmad Nadim, Munir Pasha, Wahib Bey and Ghali Pasha.

In all these ways, Sharif Hussein was able to gather the reins of authority in his hands, while proclaiming his loyalty to the Sultan as the Caliph of the Muslims and to the Ottoman State as the symbol of the power of Islam. An instance of the Sharif's conflict with the Ottoman authorities occurred at the end of the pilgrimage season of 1909. The Emir Al Hajj, the official in charge of the Syrian pilgrims, was Abdul Rahman Pasha Yusuf, a Damascus notably linked to the CUP. He refused to permit the pilgrims to return by the land route, on the pretext that it was not safe, and instead insisted on returning

by sea — an insult to the Sharif because it suggested he could not maintain law and order. Sharif Hussein insisted that security prevailed and foiled this attempt to undermine his prestige by entrusting the pilgrims to the care of his brother Nasir and his son Abdullah. Both reached Damascus safely with the pilgrims. By this trial of strength he proved that he was the master of the local bedouin tribes of the Hijaz, and a man with whom to be reckoned.

The strong position of the Sharif in the Hijaz caused the Ottoman government to seek his assistance in subduing the rulers of neighbouring Najd and 'Asir. The Sharif wrote to the Ibn Sa'ud, ruler of Najd, urging him to pay the arrears due to the Sultan's treasury. When no satisfactory reply arrived, he led an expedition eastward in 1910 and captured Sa'ud, a younger brother of Ibn Sa'ud. As a result the latter signed a document recognising the sovereignty of the Sultan. In article 3 of the document, Ibn Sa'ud pledged: "My obedience to the Emir of Mecca in anything he orders befitting the rights and interests of the Ottoman State."

The Sharif also directed his efforts to support Ottoman sovereignty in the Yemen and 'Asir. In Yemen, he helped to bring about an accord between the Ottoman government and the ruling Iman Yahya in 1911. The situation in 'Asir, however, was complicated by the fact that the Idrisi, emir of 'Asir, was in contact with the Italians in Eritrea, thereby raising the spectre of Italian ambitions in the Arabian Peninsula. The Idrisi Emir achieved some success and

besieged Abha, the principal town in the district. A letter Sharif Hussein sent to his brother Nasir (a member of the Senate in Istanbul), indicates his understanding that the government had entrusted "the repair of the Sanjaq of 'Asir to our charge after consultation with us," and that he had begun to gather tribesmen for the impending expedition. He understood that the Grand Vizier had instructed all officials in 'Asir to obey his orders.

In the summer of 1911, the Sharif led a force composed of tribesmen and regular troops into 'Asir where, after a number of engagements, he succeeded in relieving Abha and its garrison of Ottoman troops. The activities of the Sharif made such an impression that the British ambassador in Paris wrote to the Foreign Office: "The revolt in Yemen continues. The mortality amongst the Turkish troops sent thither to suppress it is very great and the Grand Sherief of Mecca shows signs of shaking off the Turkish yoke."

Indeed, difficulties soon appeared. The governor of 'Asir refused to comply with the wishes of the Sharif. He believed that the Sharif was making administrative arrangements and civil appointments designed to establish his own rule rather than that of the government. The Sharif according to the governor, was arranging to rule 'Asir himself with the hope of government forces. The Sharif returned to Mecca indignant, but the Ottoman government saw fit to conciliate him in the following year (1912). The Idrisi Emir had resumed his attacks with the

help of Italian weapons, and accordingly the Sharif sent another expedition to 'Asir under his third son, Faisal. That force remained fighting there for more than a year.

Sharif Hussein believed that the national interests of the Arabs and Turks were united within the Ottoman bond. He believed also that he was as responsible for preserving the interests of the state as anyone holding high position in Istanbul. He was very confident of his strength in the Hijaz. This is clear from a personal letter he sent to his brother, Nasir, in which he stated that he well knew the evil intentions of the CUP towards him, which might lead the Ottoman Empire to lose the Hijaz. He asked his brother to inform the Grand Vizier "that the state is not confined to the Turks but that we have the greatest share in giving counsel and the right of opinions in matters affecting its essential interests. This is not to gain fame or personal advantages but to serve the community of Muslims... What can they do to you? Nothing. You should know that."

Sharif Hussein was indeed loyal to the Ottoman state. His was not abject loyalty, but that of a strong man who believed the state to be for the Arabs as much as it was for the Turks. He fought against the Idrisi Emir out of conviction that the latter was an accomplice of the Italians, and, therefore, "the enemy of God."

(Continued on page 5)

Study says Arab economy fails to match world growth

DHABI (AFP) — The Arab economy has failed to keep up with growth in other parts of the world over the last two decades despite investments in oil, an official Arab League report said Sunday.

The report said that the Arab League's gross domestic product (GDP) in the late 1970s and early 1980s was not offset by the sharp increase in oil prices. The Arab League's official Arab League Fund for Economic Development said the combined Arab GDP fell sharply in 1993, but the oil boom did increase in current performance of the Arab economy since the late 1970s has not enabled it to occupy a remarkable place in the economies of other world groups," the report said.

From 2.46 per cent in 1975, Arab GDP jumped to 4.64 per cent of the total world GDP in 1980 when oil prices peaked at more than \$30 a barrel.

But the level then started to decline steadily to reach 3.35 in 1985, 2.2 per cent in 1990 and 1.63 per cent in 1992, the report said.

A breakdown showed Iraq, Algeria, Libya and the other key oil producers in the Gulf accounted for the bulk of the Arab GDP.

In 1980, their GDP accounted for 3.74 per cent of the world's while it stood at 2.58 per cent in 1985, at 1.65 per cent in 1990 and 1.18 per cent in 1992.

The combined Arab GDP stood at \$439.5 billion in 1980, its highest level in the last two decades.

It plunged to \$351 billion in 1986 when oil prices dipped to below \$10 a barrel but it recovered to \$458 billion in 1990 and \$483 billion in 1992.

The AMF report showed real growth in the Arab GDP stood at two per cent annually between 1986 and 1990, and 0.2 per cent between 1990 and 1992.

In 1990, the GDP plunged by 10.4 per cent due to the damage of the economies of Iraq and Kuwait during the Gulf crisis.

"The Arab economy is expected to record moderate growth rates in 1994 in real terms provided Arab states press ahead with reforms," it said. "But if we look back at the performance of Arab eco-

nomies over the past years, we find that the high growth in the per capita income achieved during the 1970s has almost disappeared during the following decade."

The report showed inflation rates remained high in the Arab World despite economic reforms. But it attributed high rates in some members to moves to free prices and lift subsidies in line with the reforms.

Inflation averaged at 12.7 per cent in 1990 but jumped to 55.2 per cent in 1991 due to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. In 1992, it fell to 28.6 per cent.

The report said the drop in crude prices and a diversification drive slashed the oil sector's contribution to the Arab GDP to 27.4 per cent in 1992 from 50.1 per cent in 1980.

Central banks seen varying greatly on interest rate policy during recession

BASLE, Switzerland (AFP) — Price stability remains the ultimate goal of the main central banks but they vary more now than before on interest rate policy during a recession, the central bankers' bank said here Monday.

"Despite a common commitment to the ultimate goal of price stability, there remain differences in emphasis among central banks about how monetary policy should be implemented in a period of weak economic activity," the Bank of International Settlements (BIS) said.

The 64th annual report of the BIS, set up in 1930, was published at the opening of its annual assembly here Monday.

Differences are sharpest between the U.S. and Japanese central banks on one side and the European central banks on the other,

the BIS said.

In order to boost their economies, the United States and Japan have lowered their interest rates to "quite low levels."

By contrast, the Europeans have kept interest rates relatively high "so long as inflation remained above levels that were acceptable in the longer term, or exchange rates remained vulnerable," the bank said.

The difference between the two approaches probably has its roots less in differences of emphasis over the objectives of monetary policy than in different views about "the nature of the transmission mechanism," it added.

The U.S. Federal Reserve and Bank of Japan think interest rates can and should be used to stimulate the economy and that "any attendant inflationary risks will be

kept in check by excess capacity in factor and product markets," the BIS said.

The "European central banks" believe the monetary policy operates such that the short-term effect on output is problematic while the longer-term risks for the credibility of monetary policy are substantial.

The BIS said the impact of rate cuts depended on market structure and national debt levels in each individual economy.

A study carried out in Britain and France showed that variations in the key minimum lending rate had a significant impact in Britain — where business loans are normally set at variable rates — and less in France where loan rates are normally fixed.

Meanwhile, BIS President Alexandre Lamfalussy said that the amounts by which currencies in the European monetary system (EMS) are permitted to fluctuate are unlikely to be reduced during the next few months.

"I have the feeling that we shall remain with the current situation," he said.

In July, under massive speculative pressure on foreign exchange markets, the monetary authorities of the European Union increased the permitted range of fluctuation from central rates to 15 per cent. The previous range of fluctuation between the mark and guilder, of 2.25 per cent, was retained.

Mr. Lamfalussy said in response to questions that the wide range of fluctuation might remain in effect for a long time, and even after the application of phase three of monetary union.

Under the terms of the Maastricht treaty for economic and political union, phase three requires the creation of a single currency and of a central bank for the

European Union (EU).

Mr. Lamfalussy also said that the date on which Austria would join the EMS had not been set.

The governor of the Austrian central bank, Mari Schaumayer said that Austria would enter "as soon as possible" in the light of a referendum in Austria at the weekend which had given approval for Austria to join the union.

Mr. Lamfalussy said that the Austrian currency had filled the criteria to be one of the hard-core currencies in the EMS "during the last 15 years."

Austrian monetary policy has for many years shadowed the policy followed by the German Bundesbank, analysts noted.

Outside a general meeting of the BIS, which is known as the central bankers' bank, the EU Economic Affairs Commissioner Henning Christophersen, said that the average rate of inflation throughout the union should be less than three per cent in 1995.

This would be satisfactory because it would be in line with recommendations made by the European Council in December.

It also meant that long-term interest rates should fall. Public deficits were far too high and he urged governments to "be modest with regard to pay agreements in the public sector and elsewhere."

The governor of the Danish central bank, Erik Hoffmeyer, said that a further increase in long-term interest rates was unlikely.

The increase in market rates had already occurred, he said.

But there was really no chance that unemployment in Europe would fall substantially for the foreseeable future, he said.

BIS: Boom of derivatives markets worries central banks

Basle, Switzerland (AFP) — The boom in the derivatives market "poses problems for the world's banking system," central bankers said Monday.

The Swiss-based Bank of International Settlements reported its concerns in a report published at the opening day of its annual assembly here.

One of the object of these

markets is to minimise the risks on an investment — by using covering products, hedges and futures and options — their rocketing expansion poses problems, the BIS said.

"Heavy trading losses incurred during the year (1993) by some corporate users of derivatives products added to concerns about the way in which these instruments had

been used," the bank said.

Central banks fear in particular the "systematic" risk where a failure to pay out by one group puts another into bankruptcy, setting off a chain reaction leading to a general financial crisis.

However, central banks have little control over the market which operates outside the organised market system, the BIS noted.

In the first quarter of 1993, the most recent period for which figures are available, volume in the worldwide derivatives market rose to a record \$2,095 billion, or more than 27 per cent more than in the second half of

1992.

The committee of central bank governors from the Group of Ten industrialised countries decided in May to launch a study of the market, the BIS noted.

However, Andrew Crockett, BIS director general, warned against "precipitate reactions" to concern over the expansion of the market.

Liberalisation and innovation in capital markets offer "enormous benefits" through the more efficient allocation of financial resources and enhanced opportunities to manage risk, he said in the BIS report.

"Doubtless there is work

still to be done to strengthen the control procedures of institutions using the market, as well as to adapt capital adequacy standards for market-makers," Mr. Crockett said.

"More is also required to improve market transparency (through disclosure) and to make market infrastructure more resilient (for example by strengthening settlement systems)," he added.

But on the macroeconomic side, it would, he said, be a mistake "to assume that policy-making would be made easier if financial instruments could be limited or capital movements controlled."

Saudis see crude oil price of \$20 a barrel within year

NICOSIA (AFP) — Saudi Arabia believes sticking to the freeze on OPEC's crude output will push up prices to nearly \$20 a barrel within a year, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

The Nicosia-based special-interest weekly said this was contrary to the widespread view that Riyadh favoured producing more than demand to attract buyers with low prices.

Instead, Saudi leaders believe that maintaining the ceiling of 24.52 million barrels a day (b/d), set in March for the rest of 1994, is the best way to stimulate prices, MEES said.

The current oil prices stands at \$16 a barrel, below OPEC's target of \$21 which it has aimed at for two years.

MEES said that at the OPEC ministerial conference in Vienna opening on Wednesday, the kingdom would obtain its partners' consent not to call any meeting of the group's ministerial monitoring committee in September.

This would signal stability to the market.

FINAL WARNING

MEMBERS SCF CO. LONDON

Refer to the Economic Security Committee Decision No. 4/90 dated July 15, 1990 and its Amendment No. 7/90 dated September 20, 1990 by which Petra Bank was put under liquidation; hereby notify you of the following:

After reviewing Petra Bank's records they showed that you are indebted towards Petra Bank with an aggregate amount of JD 3,769,395.713 (Only Jordan dinars) as at 31.5.94 in addition to the interest on this indebtedness at the rate of 9% annually until final settlement.

Whereas you have been notified of your above indebtedness by publication in the Official Gazette edition 3918 page 1685 issued on 25/8/93, and you being debtors to Petra Bank Under liquidation have not taken any action to settle the above indebtedness.

And since this debt has become final and binding and unobjectionable in any way, we hereby give you a final warning to settle the above debt within 30 days from the above date, otherwise, we shall regretfully take all necessary legal procedures to collect the rights of Petra Bank.

Therefore, you are requested to contact Petra Bank Under Liquidation in order to settle subject liabilities on the following address:

Petra Bank (Under Liquidation)
General Management Building/Second Floor/Jabal Amman.
P.O. Box 527311 - 644810
Box (5254) Amman - Jordan
Petra Bank (Under Liquidation)

INVITATION

THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION
OF THE
EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CORDIALLY INVITES
JORDANIAN BUSINESSMEN, TRADERS,
INDUSTRIALISTS AND BANKERS
TO ATTEND AN
OPEN HOUSE RECEPTION
AND CATALOG EXHIBITION
ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 1994
BETWEEN 10:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M.
AT THE COMMERCIAL LIBRARY
AMERICAN EMBASSY
ABDOUN

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JUNE 14, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Get an early start on tasks that are important to your welfare. Consider what it is that you can do to improve your appearance and physical shape as you strive for happiness and tranquility.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a good day for making new contacts, provided you don't ignore those who have been important to you in the past on some assignment.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Use a more advanced system for handling information which is vital to your welfare. Relax at home with your mate and loved ones tonight.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Study new projects that can bring you more security in the future. Avoid a temptation to spend money foolishly or you could run out.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to carry through with your obligations and get the best possible results. Take no risks in motion or you could get into trouble.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can easily improve the quality of your work by working harder. Engage in civic tasks and gain added prestige through your efforts.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Use more modern methods at regular routines and be more productive. Come to a better accord with your loved one and show more affection.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Obtain important information you need from the right sources. Make long-range plans for the days ahead on the best method to get a new project done.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) New interests can prove to be lucrative if you study them well. Private endeavours are fine to follow at this time so you can be successful.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Come to a better accord with regular allies and make the future brighter. Express happiness with loved one and close friends.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Make some needed changes at work and get excellent results. Be sure to use extreme caution in motion at this time as all will be well.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Know what is of greatest importance to you personally and go after it in a positive fashion. Be more cheerful towards those you hold dear.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Forget business matters for a while and spend more time on home chores. Take treatments and improve your appearance for those you meet.

BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Anglin

Scramble these four jumbles, letter by letter, to form a four-letter word.

PLUJE

CONCA

ERRED

BRUCHE

WHAT THE COMMUTERS CALLED THE DAILY TRAFFIC JAM

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Jumbles: SYAMP, BULGY, REDEEM, CAJOLE

Answer: In default, a ball game can turn into this — A BAWL GAME

Peanuts

Andy Capp

Mutt'n'Jeff

THE Daily Crossword by Stephen Flaxbeck

ACROSS

1 Challenge, for one

6 — majesty

10 Grand

14 Lad borne

15 Bursh green

16 Shaper

17 Faintest

18 Negress

19 Tumble ruler

20 Jump-start

22 Come Jay

23 Lunchtime

24 Unne

26 Part of BLT

30 Refuge

32 Planet of the

33 Hook

35 Singer Luff

39 Concert musician

41 Lust hope

43 Fallen

44 Open a cat

45 Inkling

47 Cubic meter

48 Ambush

51 Zevargo, e.g.

52 Basil

53 Concept

57 Cart

59 Synonymy

63 A Cornery

64 Western chum

65 Insecure

66 Euphony

67 House of

68 surgeon start

69 Confirmed

70 Waller comments

71 Users

72 Edberg, e.g.

DOWN

1 Agitate

2 Extensively

3 Talented

4 Bearing

5 Mother or father

6 Kay — Fla

7 Vernal or autumnal

8 — C. anal

9 Canvas supports

10 Kant's field

11 Placemaster

12 Sily

13 Best gas

14 Alex Haley epic

15 Lunatic

16 Bales

17 Hyaline or cat s.

18 ver

19 Flat-topped elevation

20 Heppert

21 Verdi hit

24 Rose petal oil

25 Attack in harsh language

27 (42) vessel

28 Chich

29 Division word

30 Old-time actor

31 — Fla

32 Friends — (Scottish) chieftain

33 Aphorism

34 Awaken

35 Nightclub

36 — a Green

37 Stop

38 Mandamus

39 Honesty day

40 Part of GBS

41 Demos

42 — cut inside

43 do

44 Unit of torque

هذا من اجل

Islamic banking gains momentum in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia is likely to see all financial institutions adopting the Islam-sanctioned interest-free banking system alongside conventional banking by the end of the year, officials have said.

Twenty-three institutions in the predominantly Muslim country, including 13 commercial banks and eight finance companies, have obtained the approval of the central bank Negara to offer Islamic banking facilities since the concept was launched in March last year, they said.

A total of 817 branches around the country were involved, according to the officials, according to the officials.

"We expect all financial institutions to participate in the interest-free banking system by the end of 1994," Deputy Finance Minister Mustapa Mohammad was quoted by the Bernama news agency as saying.

There are 38 commercial banks, including 16 foreign-owned banks, 12 merchant banks and 41 finance companies operating in Malaysia.

"All banks will follow and offer the additional facilities to maintain their competitive edge," a banker said.

Malaysia became the first country to have a full-fledged Islamic financial system running parallel to the conventional banking system operating in most countries when it launched in January an Islamic interbank money-market.

Banks operating under the Islamic system offer profit-sharing instead of payment of interest.

Many bankers say the difference between traditional banking and the Islamic banking concept is largely cosmetic, disguising the interest payments — or "riba" — forbidden under Islamic law.

"The Islamic interbank money market operates on the basis of 'Al Mudharabah' (profit-sharing), which simply means that the provider of funds will earn a profit from his investments instead of being paid interest," a central bank official said.

China moves to wipe out black market in gold

BEIJING (AFP) — China has banned gold futures trading and pledged to wipe out a flourishing black market in the precious metal by July following a dramatic fall in sales to the state, the China Daily has said.

The State Council issued a circular outlining moves aimed at restoring the central bank's monopoly on gold purchases, severely undermined by the mushrooming of illegal markets around the country since early 1992, the report said.

From July 1, local officials responsible for the gold trade will be charged and punished if black marketeers are found to be operating in their area, the circular said, adding that any seizures of more than 50 grammes (1.75 ounces) of the metal would be dealt with as big cases.

The circular warned that producers who failed to sell all their output to the state would no longer be eligible for tax breaks.

Gold purchases by the People's Bank of China between January and April were 35 per cent lower than the average for this period, the China Daily quoted the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry's gold bureau vice-director, Cui De-wen, as saying.

Last year, gold sales to the state plunged 32 per cent over 1992, the report said. This was the first fall in 15 years.

In a bid to reverse the trend, the circular also urged the central bank to improve its gold purchasing network and to bring its gold price back in line with international rates.

In September, the bank raised its purchasing price from 51.2 yuan (\$8.80) to 96 yuan (\$16.70) a gramme, about 90 per cent of the price on the London market, and pledged to maintain a peg with the international market.

However, when the value in London subsequently climbed, the Chinese central bank's price failed to move, forcing sellers back to the black market.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York C.C. 94	Tokyo C.C. 94
Sterling Pound	1.5090	1.5100
Deutsche Mark	1.5065	1.5085
Swiss Franc	1.4057	1.4060
French Franc	5.6705	5.6747**
Japanese Yen	105.55	105.67
European Currency Unit	1.1590	1.1621**

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Yemen facing billion dollar bill to repair war damage

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Yemen looks set to emerge from its civil war with a badly damaged infrastructure. A shattered army and the spectre of political uncertainty are scaring away potential investors for some time to come.

Already one of the world's poorest countries, Yemen can ill-afford the added strain on its struggling economy of a full-scale war between rival north and south leaders.

Airports, harbours, a key oil refinery, roads and water and power plants are reported to have sustained heavy damage in the five-week-old civil war put at billions of dollars by a southern leader.

The appointed foreign minister of the breakaway southern state of the Yemen Democratic Republic Abdullah Al Asnaji told AFP Yemen would be counting on regional and international aid to fund reconstruction.

"The war will have serious consequences on the economy. Losses are very large and surpass all estimates. They are in billions of dollars because the infrastructure and public utilities have been badly damaged," Mr. Asnaji told AFP during a visit to Abu Dhabi.

But any outside aid could prove to be at the expense of development promised when the former conservative North Yemen and the Marxist South were merged in May 1990.

"We hope Arab and international funds will extend aid to help us in rebuilding after the war. We will also use our own resources. But this will be at the expense of development and the aid will only aggravate our debt problems. In a nutshell, the economic situation will be horrible," he said.

Even before the war broke out on May 5, Yemen's eco-

nomy was reeling under heavy debt, inflation, negative growth, unemployment and deficits in its budget and balance of payments.

The country's debt is estimated at \$7 to \$9 billion and its budget deficit was projected at around \$800 million in 1993.

Inflation was as high as 35 per cent in 1992, putting further pressure on the national currency the rial.

Its current account suffered a \$342 million deficit in 1992 while exports remained far below imports, standing at \$27 million and \$119 million a month respectively in the first half of 1993.

Despite a steady increase in oil output peaking at its current 335,000 barrels per day (b/d) compared with 200,000 (b/d) in 1993, Yemen's gross domestic product recorded negative growths of 2.5 and 3.9 per cent in 1992 and 1991.

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Serbs attack U.N. patrol as U.N. insists truce holding

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Bosnian Serbs attacked a British U.N. patrol in northern Bosnia, U.N. officials said Monday, in the latest violation of a three-day-old ceasefire aimed at breaking the cycle of violence in Bosnia.

While also reporting other clashes, a U.N. Protection Force spokesman insisted that the ceasefire had generally held since coming into force Friday. The truce signed in Geneva last week was intended to make time for talks on an overall settlement.

Conflict continued to dominate substantially over the past few days indicating continuing compliance with at least the spirit of cessation-of-hostilities agreement, UNPROFOR spokesman Eric Chaperon said.

The British UNPROFOR patrol, comprising two Warrior armoured troop carriers, fired back after being targeted by 15-20 mortar shells and several bursts of machine gun fire Sunday evening, Chaperon said.

The Warriors were clearly showing the U.N. flag, therefore it was a deliberate attack

against UNPROFOR," said a U.N. Protection Force report issued in Kiseljak, northern Bosnia.

The incident happened on a Muslim-Serb frontline north of Maglaj, near the village of Halilovic, it said. Maj. Chaperon said 30 machinegun bullets hit the armoured vehicle, but there were no casualties. The British U.N. forces responded by firing 80 7.62 mm shots before withdrawing a short distance.

The patrol was targeted again about two hours later by about 20 mortar shells, Maj. Chaperon continued. Ten of them landed some 10 metres from the Warriors.

Following the second attack the patrol withdrew to Halilovic, Maj. Chaperon said, adding that on both occasions the shots were fired from Serb positions.

He added that UNPROFOR commanders on the ground did not request air support from North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) planes. The British patrol was in a new zone, which could have surprised the Serbs, he added.

The latest month-long ceasefire, which came into force at midday Friday, was violated by a number of incidents over the weekend, in particular in the Maglaj region.

One of the most serious violations was reported Sunday, when five or six rockets from an unknown source slammed into the northern Serb-held town of Brcko.

Maj. Chaperon added that fighting between Bosnian Serb and Muslim-led Bosnian government forces continued in the Maglaj area Sunday, while fighting was also reported around Mostar in the south and Brcko in the north-east.

Meanwhile fighting also continued over the weekend around the secessionist Muslim enclave of Bihać in north-western Bosnia, between government forces and troops loyal to breakaway leader Fikret Abdic, the U.N. spokesman said.

Maj. Chaperon said that Mr. Abdic's forces, which went on the offensive Friday, were pushed back and ended territory in fighting over the weekend. The region is not

covered by the U.N.-brokered ceasefire.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees spokesman Peter Kessler said that several hundred refugees fled the fighting for the town of Velika Kladusa, the separatists' stronghold in the north of the enclave.

No UNHCR convoy has been able to reach the Bihać region for the last two weeks, because of blockades put up by Serb secessionists in the breakaway republic of Krajina in southern Croatia.

Karadzic in Moscow

Meanwhile Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, arrived Monday in Moscow to receive a poetry prize from the conservative-minded Russian Writers' Union, the union's officials announced.

The Bosnian Serb leader, accompanied by his wife Lili, told journalists at the airport he had received his award for "poems written before the start of my political career."

The Russian Foreign Ministry said no official meetings were planned.



A Bosnian government soldier opens the bipod on a 30mm Yugoslav army machine gun on the front-line at Bistrica, north of Zenica in central Bosnia (AFP photo)

Gaidar heads new reformist party

MOSCOW (AFP) — Former Russian Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar was elected Monday to head the new reformist party Democratic Choice of Russia.

Mr. Gaidar, who was the only candidate, was elected by 490 to 14 on the second day of the party's founding congress in Moscow.

Party members also elected 29-year-old Oleg Boyko, a Russian businessman and banker, as president of the executive commission, making him Democratic Choice of Russia's virtual number two.

Mr. Gaidar, father of the economic "shock therapy" introduced in 1992, was until now the head of a parliamentary coalition Russia's Choice founded for the December legislative elections.

Although this list had been forecast to gain a sweeping victory, it was outpaced in the proportional representation ballot by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's ultranationalists.

Mr. Gaidar resigned from his post as first deputy prime minister the following month, denouncing the economic policies of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The 507 deputies of the new Democratic Choice of Russia party have been given the task of creating party structures in the 68 regions from which they hail.

Mr. Boyko is head of the National Credit Bank and the Olbi Trading Company, a group worth \$500 million. He denied he would pour money into the new party's coffers but said he would encourage local businessmen to do so.

Mr. Gaidar told journalists that his party "does not support" the government's current economic policies. "But I cannot say that we are in the opposition," he added, confirming his support to the four ministers who are members of his party, including Anatoli Chubais, in charge of privatisations.

Brits score big in Tony Awards

NEW YORK (AFP) — British productions took several top Tony Awards in New York Sunday, with Carousell named best musical revival and An Inspector Calls the Best Play Revival. The 1994 Tony Awards followed a season dominated by golden oldies on Broadway. England's Royal National Theatre produced both the top revivals. Diana Rigg received Best Actress in a Play Award in her portrayal of Medea in the Euripides tragedy, produced by London's Almeida Theatre. "I shall carry this home, not only this, but the wonderful memories of American audiences and playing on Broadway," Mr. Rigg said. Stephen Spinella won his second consecutive Tony Award for his lead part in Angels in America: Perestroika, being named Best Actor in a Play. Last year he won Best Featured Actor Award for playing the same character in Angels in America: Millennium Approaches. But battling for perhaps the most coveted Tony, the Best Musical Award, were the stage version of a Disney cartoon film and the story of an obsessive love affair. Beauty and the Beast, a special-effects-loaded version of the Walt Disney fairy tale classic swept Broadway this year thanks to its glitzy production and skillful Disney marketing. Passion, which tells the story of a plain woman's love for a dashing military officer, was created by Broadway's biggest composer Steven Sondheim and author-director James Lapine. For Best Tony, critics were tipping Perestroika, part two of Tony Kushner's drama about AIDS, called "Angels in America."

PARIS (AP) — French television viewers were treated Sunday to verbal salvos between two left-wing rival candidates who contested the European Parliament elections. The exchange pitted Bernard Tapie, the flamboyant tycoon whose ticket, Energie Radicale, scored well, and Dr. Leon Schwartzberg, who headed a losing ticket aimed at stopping Bosnia's civil war. Dr. Schwartzberg ran in 1992 with Mr. Tapie in local elections. Mr. Tapie, who made his fortune by buying and selling off firms, is currently embroiled in scandals over his business and sports dealings. The exchange on the TF-1 television network post-election analysis was as follows: Dr. Schwartzberg: "Bernard Tapie, you who've fired workers, you who play the market with your soccer players, can you really believe you're a man of the left?"

Mr. Tapie: "Yes, dear Leon, even if I had to pay for your campaign and you resent me, for it." Dr. Schwartzberg: "Bastard you didn't pay for my campaign, you ruined me, if you're a man of the left, then Jean Jaures, Leon Blum and (Pierre) Mendes-France are turning in their graves. It's shameful to have someone like you rise to the top of the left."

Mr. Tapie: "It really breaks me up that you only got 1.5 per cent of the votes." Dr. Schwartzberg: "I knew you'd get good results. What did you get with? Your big mouth, because you simplify all problems."

Nana Mouskouri, 'afraid' of politics, wins Euro seat

ATHENS (AFP) — Greek singer Nana Mouskouri, who has lived outside Greece for the past 30 years and admits to knowing "nothing" about politics, has nonetheless won a seat in the European Parliament as a member of the conservative New Democracy Party. Her candidacy reflected her friendship with party leader Mitsotakis Evert, who added her name to his list in Sunday's elections. But Ms. Mouskouri's nonetheless irritated public opinion through her long absence abroad and her apparent indifference to Greece's dispute with Macedonia, a conflict that has inflamed sentiment here for the past two years. Authorities and ordinary citizens alike fear that the former Yugoslav republic harbours terrorists, designs on a northern Greek province of the same name.

"There's no question of my getting involved in politics, which frightens me and about which I know nothing," Ms. Mouskouri said.

Abiola's civil disobedience call fails to stir Nigerian capital

LAGOS (AFP) — Nigeria's pro-democracy movement failed Monday to spark a civil disobedience campaign here as police stepped up a manhunt for the businessman who has declared himself the country's elected president.

Business was as usual in the economic capital Lagos, where the National Democratic Campaign (NADECO) backing millionaire tycoon Moshood Abiola against the military junta had called for a week of peaceful protest from Monday.

The police renewed an appeal for help in catching Mr. Abiola, who Saturday proclaimed himself president and commander-in-chief of the military, offering a reward of 50,000 naira (\$2,000) to anybody who disclosed his hiding place.

Short demonstrations took place in the northern Palmgrove and Iyana Ipaja suburbs of Lagos, a city of some six million inhabitants, an AFP correspondent reported. Riot police rapidly intervened against tyre-burning protesters in one of the incidents.

Mr. Abiola planned Monday to hold a "series of meetings with friends and political associates," one source close to the self-proclaimed president said. The source did not disclose where the talks would be held and who would attend.

If caught, Mr. Abiola faces treason charges.

The Muslim businessman, who on unofficial results comfortably won a presidential election held on June 12 last year, and then annulled by the junta of the time, gave police surrounding his house the slip to make his declaration Saturday.

One of his aides, Fred Eno, told AFP that Mr. Abiola had left his large Lagos residence by "one of the unmanned exits" and driven to the Eleganza Plaza Hotel on Lagos Island in the city centre to proclaim himself president at a 20-minute ceremony.

The event was attended but hundreds of Abiola supporters and associates, Mr. Eno said, but journalists and

others were deliberately not invited to prevent any details of the event leaking out to the security forces.

Nigerian deputy police chief, Nuhu Aliyu, has cast doubt on whether the ceremony took place at all, saying that it was allegedly held at a stone's throw from the Lion Building, a major police headquarters, and could not have gone unnoticed.

But Mr. Eno said that he would provide journalists with photographs and video shots of the ceremony.

A score of armed police and an armoured vehicle on Monday stood guard at one end of the Ibrahim Babangida Bridge, linking parts of Lagos built on islands in the lagoon

with the mainland. Reporting Mr. Abiola's formation of a parallel government more than 24 hours after the event, the daily The News in a special edition Monday devoted its whole front page to a picture of the businessman brandishing his fist in triumph, with the title "President Abiola".

Other newspapers, warned by the closure by police Saturday of Mr. Abiola's Concord group of publications, used foreign news agency despatches reporting the event.

In spite of the trouble, Nigeria's military ruler, General Sani Abacha, was out of the country Monday to attend the annual summit of

the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) opening in Tunis.

Earlier, Gen. Abacha pledged his "determination" to establish a lasting democracy in Nigeria in a national television and radio address on the first anniversary of the annulled presidential elections.

The poll was annulled by General Ibrahim Babangida who alleged irregularities, though international observers billed it free and fair. At the end of August, Gen. Babangida handed over to an unelected civilian administration.

Gen. Abacha overthrew this government last November.

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Government forces clash with opponents in Chechnya

MOSCOW (AFP) — Government troops clashed with opposition forces in Grozny, capital of the secessionist Russian Republic of Chechnya in the northern Caucasus, Interfax quoted opposition sources as saying Monday.

The skirmishes, which broke out Saturday after a meeting of opposition supporters called for the resignation of President Dzhokhar Dudayev, claimed "many victims", including civilians, and were continuing Monday, the agencies said without giving further details.

Mr. Dudayev has faced

stiff resistance from opposition groups since he dissolved the republic's local assembly a year ago in the face of plunging living standards and escalating violence among mafia-like clans.

Chechen leaders have accused the opposition of being backed by Moscow.

The Russian government has been trying without success since the beginning of this year to organise a meeting with Mr. Dudayev aimed at normalising relations by signing an accord granting the breakaway republic a degree of economic and political autonomy.

Indian rebels reject Mexican peace proposal

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (AP) — Dozens of rebel Indian communities in southern Mexico overwhelmingly rejected a government peace proposal, but voted against renewed violence.

The Zapatista National Liberation Army, which launched the New Year's Day uprising, issued the results in a communique late Saturday.

It said 98 per cent of villagers in the area it controls, in remote southeast Chiapas state, voted against accepting the government offer, which promised more government aid to the impoverished region and reforms of the state's repressive political system.

Instead, the announcement said the Chiapas communities, mostly descendants of Mayan Indians, voted for "a new national dialogue with all the nation's progressive forces for democracy, liberty and justice for all Mexicans."

The Zapatistas said they would continue to observe a ceasefire in force since Jan. 12, and will only defend themselves if attacked by army troops.

It gave no details of how the vote was carried out or how many people cast ballots.

In Mexico City, government peace envoy Manuel Camacho Solis announced late Sunday that the Mexican army would also continue to abide by the ceasefire.

"I wish I could have come

here tonight with the good news of a peace accord, but it just wasn't so," he said at a news conference.

But he said he was optimistic because rebels agreed they would not resort to new violence and also would allow an Aug. 21 presidential election to go on unimpeded in Chiapas.

The Zapatistas, who claim they number 3,000 men and women fighters, occupied San Cristobal and a dozen other towns and villages in a concerted action on New Year's Day.

Around 145 people were killed in heavy fighting with army troops until the truce was called, but Roman Catholic Church and human rights groups say the death toll may have reached 300.

In a separate development, authorities investigating a deadly car-bomb explosion were focusing Sunday on the possibility it may have been part of an underground war between two Mexican drug gangs.

Five people were killed and 15 wounded in the blast before dawn Saturday outside the plush Camino Real Hotel, on the west side of the Jalisco state capital of Guadalajara.

At least 23 suspects have been brought in for questioning in the explosion that rocked an area of 20 blocks around, and hurled shattered body parts 300 yards away.



Khmer Rouge bodyguards clear a path for Penh, two days before peace talks in the Chan Younan (centre), the Maoist faction's Cambodian capital (AFP photo)

Khmer Rouge officials in Cambodia for possible final round of talks

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Two senior officials from the radical Khmer Rouge arrived here Monday for a second and possibly final round of peace talks with the Cambodian government.

"If everyone agrees and compromises then we hope the Cambodian problem can be solved," said Chan Younan, the former Khmer Rouge ambassador to China.

The peace talks, which follow a previous round hosted by King Norodom Sihanouk in North Korea last month, are to take place Wednesday in the capital's Royal Palace and will be hosted by Nhek

Toulong, one of the king's top officials.

Mr. Chan Younan was accompanied on the flight in from Bangkok by Mak Ben, who often serves as the guerrilla faction's spokesman, and a bodyguard.

Mr. Chan Younan and Mr. Mak Ben will be joined by two other Khmer Rouge officials to meet Sok An and Veng Sereyvuth from the government and Toh Lab and Chour Leang Hout from parliament.

Co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh, however, questioned how the session could achieve anything when,

he said, "all the leaders (gathered) around the king could not get a positive result" at the last meeting.

Although pessimistic about the possibility of reaching an agreement with the guerrillas, Foreign Minister Prince Norodom Sirivuth said the very fact that the government was talking to the guerrilla faction created a "good image."

Co-premier Hun Sen said he thought it "useless" to negotiate with the guerrilla faction but added that it was the king's wish that the two sides talk.

intercepting fleeing Haitians and Britain's requiring Bosnians to have visas when it doesn't have a consulate in Bosnia where they could get them.

Population growth increases pressure on people to move to other lands, but the report notes that the regions with the biggest population growth — Africa and South Asia — are not the main source of migrants.

The report also points to some benefits countries experience from migration — they fill labour needs and send money back to their homelands.

Funds sent back to the native countries of foreign workers totalled \$37 billion in 1990, equal to about 70 per cent of the \$54 billion in official aid given to poorer countries for the year.

Tensions mount as Aliyev rebuffs Russian troop plan

BAKU (AFP) — Tensions grew here this weekend after President Geidar Aliyev rebuffed Moscow's demands for Russian troops to be deployed as peacekeepers in the disputed enclave of Nagorno Karabakh.

Mr. Aliyev told visiting Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev Saturday that attempts to bring peace to Karabakh should be made through the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and other "international organisations."

The Russian minister demanded Mr. Aliyev Wednesday that his visit to Baku would be Azerbaijan's last chance to endorse the Russian peace plan, signed by neighbouring Armenia last month.

"There must be (Russian) peacekeeping troops in Karabakh... we are ready to send a Russian force," Mr. Grachev told AFP Friday on the eve of his talks with Mr. Aliyev.

Mr. Aliyev dodged Russian pressure when he flew to Istanbul Thursday to meet with Turkish leaders and Western foreign ministers attending a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) meeting.

There Mr. Aliyev secured backing from the United States, Britain and other Western states for continued international efforts to work out a peace plan for Karabakh.

The disputed enclave of Nagorno Karabakh lies inside Azerbaijan but is inhabited

by an Armenian majority. The six-year war there has cost more than 20,000 lives and has seen Azerbaijan lose nearly a quarter of its territory.

"Without the West, Azerbaijan cannot win against Russia and Armenia," said a source at the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry.

Some observers however questioned Mr. Aliyev's resolve in the political war of nerves over Russia's desire to reestablish its influence in the region and his faith in the West's resistance to this.

"Aliyev was a KGB general and worked in the Kremlin — he knows well how Moscow pressures small countries like ours," said an aide, claiming this enabled the former Soviet politburo member to stand up to Russia.

Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, himself a former politburo member, failed in efforts to resist similar Russian pressure earlier this year and some analysts predict the same fate for Mr. Aliyev.

"They humbled us (Georgia) and they will humble Azerbaijan," claimed Alexander Rondeli, the head of International Relations Department at Tbilisi State University.

A Russian defence analyst who asked not to be named said Russia oadiy needs military bases in the Transcaucasus to shore up its air defences, as Russia's border with Iran and Turkey is now vulnerable to air or missile attack.

Migration, forced and voluntary, rises around the world

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tens of millions of people, believing they can't prosper or even survive in their native countries, are migrating to other lands in record numbers.

In what population experts say is one of the surest signs of increased global stress, a rising number of people worldwide are fleeing oppression, being forced out by war, looking for better jobs, or just moving to be with relatives.

The number of refugees has been climbing since the 1960s, from barely 1.3 million to more than 19 million. But most of the world's foreigners are legal immigrants, rather than displaced people. Estimates of the total living as foreigners in all the world's countries are close to 125

million. "It's a sign of the neglect of our developing countries," said Joseph Speidel, president of Population Action International, which chronicles world migration in a report released Sunday.

The report covers refugees, who are forced from their homelands for various reasons, as well as voluntary migrants, who usually enter new lands to seek a better life. The line between the two can be thin, because both may be moving for reasons rooted in economics.

The report depicts a world in motion, with the biggest flow from East and South East Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe to North America.

The report also shows significant migration into Western Europe and to Australia

and New Zealand. Some of the smallest migrations are from sub-Saharan Africa, where people are so impoverished they can't afford to leave.

The most striking statistics, featured in the study and in a recent World Watch magazine report, come from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

The top 10 countries hosting refugees, based on estimates for 1992, were Iran with 4.2 million, former Yugoslavia with upwards of 2 million, Pakistan with 1.6 million, Malawi with 1.1 million, Jordan with 1 million, Germany with 827,100, Sudan with 725,600, Canada with 568,200, the Gaza Strip with 560,200, and Guinea with 478,500.

The United States was 11th with 473,000. "If the cold war was dominated by ideological conflict, the fear is widespread that the 1990s mark the beginning of a new era of ethnic violence that will uproot additional millions of people from their homes," said Kathleen Newland, senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, in the World Watch report.

Mr. Newland said the world needs to relieve conditions that cause people to leave their homelands — whether it's political upheaval, military abuse, economic failure or environmental collapse — rather than erect barriers to migration or treat immigrants badly when they settle in new lands.

She criticised Pakistan's closing its border to Afghan refugees, the United States

intercepting fleeing Haitians and Britain's requiring Bosnians to have visas when it doesn't have a consulate in Bosnia where they could get them.

Population growth increases pressure on people to move to other lands, but the report notes that the regions with the biggest population growth — Africa and South Asia — are not the main source of migrants.

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Handwritten text in Arabic script: "هذا هو الجواب"

Rwandan rebels capture Gitarama

KIGALI (AFP) — Rwandan rebel leader Paul Kagame said Monday that his fighters had seized control of the town of Gitarama, where the self-proclaimed interim government fled and set up its base in April.

The fall of Gitarama, 50 kilometres southwest of the embattled capital Kigali, could not be confirmed by U.N. officials in Kigali or government forces.

The rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) had been battling the army for two weeks for control of Gitarama.

"We control 90 per cent of the town, including the centre, and the situation will be completely clear this afternoon," Gen. Kagame told reporters at Kanombe military camp near Kigali Airport.

"There was a big fight yesterday and last night it was taken by our forces," Gen. Kagame said, adding that the entire town was in rebel hands except for "one or two hills" where beleaguered government forces were still holding out.

"We are following government forces as they are moving towards Ruhengeri (a town north-west of Kigali)," Gen. Kagame added.

Some members of the interim government proclaimed after the April 6 death of President Juvénal Habyarimana fled Gitarama several days ago, U.N. spokesman Jean-Guy Plante said.

U.N. officials were unaware of the whereabouts of Prime Minister Jean Kambanda.

Fierce artillery and small arms battles meanwhile raged in Kigali. According to Gen. Kagame, the rebels gained ground.

Philippe Gaillard, head of the International Red Cross in Kigali, said two shells presumably fired by the rebels had slammed into the Red Cross hospital compound in a government-held area of Kigali Sunday.

Four or five others landed just outside. Nobody was hurt, and Mr. Gaillard said he had lodged protests with both sides.

Rebel and army commanders meanwhile resumed U.N.-brokered truce talks Monday at U.N. headquarters in Kigali's Amahoro Hotel.

Brigadier-General Marcel Gatsinzi, representing the army, told reporters he had no information about Gitarama.

The rebels control a large section of the road south from Gitarama to the town of Butare and the Burundi border.

The two sides have been meeting regularly for two weeks, but so far have failed to agree on a truce which U.N. commander General Romeo Dallaire says is essential to allow the United Nations to get desperately needed food and medicine to civilians.

On Saturday they discussed U.N. ceasefire proposals, but rebel negotiator Colonel Frank Mugambage said the RPF would accept a ceasefire only if the massacres of civilians ceased in government-held areas.

Up to half a million Rwandans have been slaughtered, mostly minority Tutsis and opposition supporters butchered by extremist Hutu militias since the death of Mr. Habyarimana, a Hutu, in a suspected rocket attack on his plane.

The mainly Tutsi rebels refuse to recognise the all-Hutu government formed after Mr. Habyarimana's death.

U.N. soldiers meanwhile resumed the evacuation of civilians trapped behind hostile lines in Kigali, but some refused to leave rebel-held areas for places they considered less safe.

The U.N. has moved about 2,000 people from rebel-controlled areas to government-held sectors and vice-versa. But evacuations were suspended last week after a convoy came under fire.

The U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) decided to continue evacuations Monday after both sides agreed to a four-hour truce to allow the convoys to get through.

A convoy of empty trucks set out Monday morning for the Sainte-Famille Church where about 8,000 people are sheltering behind government lines. Another convoy went to the rebel-held Amahoro Stadium.

Each was to ferry about 150 people to areas the U.N. considers safer. But none of the 5,000 civilians encamped in squalor at the stadium would go.

Cyriaque Ngoboka, chief of the Amahoro camp, said: "The radio said the government had left and fighting was continuing in the area."

The displaced people from the stadium would have been dropped off near Runda, on the Gitarama road.

"People are here because they fled from fighting. They don't want to go where there is more fighting," Mr. Ngoboka said.

The U.N. trucks then went to King Faisal Hospital, where they found other displaced people willing to leave.

U.N. officials were to assess the success of the operation before deciding whether to continue evacuations Tuesday, U.N. spokesman Major Plante said.



Rwandan government soldiers fire a heavy machine gun at rebel positions as a third observes through a high-power telescopic sight (AFP photo)

Ben Ali opens OAU summit in Tunis

TUNIS (AFP) — About 40 heads of state gathered here Monday for the annual summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which has taken in a newly democratic South Africa, but faces bloody conflict in Rwanda and elsewhere.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia, who this year takes over the chairmanship of the OAU from Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, welcomed delegates from the pan-African body to the congress building in the Tunisian capital.

Between Monday and Wednesday, the African leaders or their representatives are to discuss the political, economic and social problems facing the continent, including Rwanda's ethnic carnage and strife in other countries.

The OAU council of ministers Saturday evening adopted a list of some 20 resolutions concerning Africa's different problems to be put to the summit, after a week of preparatory talks in

the Tunisian capital. President Nelson Mandela formally brings South Africa into the OAU as its 53rd member during this week's summit. Since its inception in 1963, the organisation had made the battle against apartheid, finally won in the elections that brought Mr. Mandela's African National Congress to power in April, one of its main stated goals.

"It is with warmth that we welcome among us the man who symbolised the national struggle and so much deserves the respect and admiration of the whole international community," Mr. Ben Ali said in his opening speech Monday.

In his reply, Mr. Mandela said: "We are ready to join hands with the rest of Africa, to become equal partners."

On his arrival here late Sunday, the South African leader pledged as much support as his country could give to other nations in the continent, but cautioned that his own government was

"addressing very formidable problems."

South Africa had already provided the U.N. mission in Rwanda with 50 armoured vehicles, separate sources said, to assist its work in trying to bring vital food and medical assistance to civilians there.

The central African country has plunged into a civil war which has seen up to half a million people slaughtered in two months of carnage.

The United Nations is endeavouring to broker a ceasefire between the Rwandan army and rebels who Monday claimed to have seized the town where the interim government had holed up.

On Saturday, African foreign ministers denounced the killings in Rwanda as "crimes against humanity" and demanded an immediate ceasefire in fighting between government and rebel forces.

They also expressed the "readiness" of African nations to provide troops to the U.N. mission in Rwanda and

appealed to the international community to help speed the deployment of additional U.N. forces.

Jerome Bicamumpaka, foreign minister in the interim Rwandan government, the rebels refuse to recognise, last week accused Uganda of giving them massive support in men and arms, and caused a furore here with his demand that the OAU "make Museveni stop interfering."

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali was expected at the summit to seek confirmation of troop commitments on top of the nearly 5,000 Africans already pledged so far.

Delegates here are also expected to debate conflicts in Somalia, Liberia and Angola and consider a mechanism "to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts" on the African continent.

The OAU approved the establishment of such a body in principle at its Cairo summit last year, but the measure has yet to get off the ground.

Filipino gunmen free 20 hostages; 2 left behind

MANILA (AFP) — Muslim gunmen freed 20 of their 22 Christian hostages Monday in the southern island of Basilan after they massacred 15 others last week, a senior military official said here.

However two hostages, including Roman Catholic priest Father Cirilo Nacorda, remained in the bandits' hands and another ransom was being sought for their release.

The hostages, most of them schoolteachers, arrived at Isabela, the capital of the southern island of Basilan and were immediately taken to the local Marine headquarters where they were met by Lieutenant General Orlando Sbrano, the military commander for the southern Philippines.

The freed hostages will be taken to this southern city by Tuesday for a medical check-up.

Chris Puno, spokesman of Basilan Governor Gerry Salapuddin, said the gov-

ernor paid the one-million-peso (\$37,000) ransom for the hostages initially demanded by the Muslims despite the government's earlier insistence that no ransom would be paid.

Relatives of Nacorda and government representatives who had been negotiating for the release of the hostages, said that the bandits were seeking as much as three million pesos for Nacorda's release.

Additional Marine and police have been flown into Basilan to take part in operations against the kidnappers but it could not be determined if they would launch any offensive while the two hostages were still being held.

The hostages were among a group of people seized by Muslim bandits on June 8. Fifteen male hostages were executed within an hour after their kidnapping.

The kidnappers were believed to be allies of the Abu

Sayyaf, an Islamic fundamentalist group blamed for terrorist bombings and kidnappings in the southern Philippines.

The Abu Sayyaf is the subject of a two-week-old military operation in the nearby southern island of Jolo which has left at least 50 dead, including 41 Muslim fighters.

Abu Sayyaf has been held responsible for bombings of Christian sites and kidnappings of Christians in the southern Philippines in the past two years.

There are fears of more violence in the south, where a Muslim rebellion claimed more than 50,000 lives in the 1970s.

Hadji Latib Taha, vicemayor of the Basilan town of Sumisip, and three of his bodyguards were wounded in an ambush by unidentified armed men Sunday, but it was not immediately clear if the incident was linked to the kidnapping.

More than 800 Christian

teachers based in Basilan have told local education officials they would not report for work next week due to fears of being kidnapped.

Classes have already been suspended in areas near the kidnapping site.

Leonardo Piquinto, mayor of the Basilan capital town of Isabela, called on both Muslim and Christian civilians Sunday to arm themselves if the military and police could not provide better protection.

"If the military or the national police cannot protect us against the Abu Sayyaf, then we should not rely on them and let us arm ourselves for our own personal protection," he said, adding that other mayors in Basilan should follow his example.

A military report has said that security in Basilan remained "unpredictable," due to reports that members of the Abu Sayyaf group were planning to conduct other bombings and kidnappings.

Austrians vote massively to join EU

VIENNA (AFP) — Austrians voted overwhelmingly in favour of joining the European Union (EU) Sunday, rejecting arguments that EU membership would strip away their neutrality and destroy the country's Alpine beauty.

Provisional official results showed that 66.39 per cent of Austria's 5.8 million electors voted to join the EU on Jan. 1, while 33.61 per cent voted no, the Interior Ministry reported.

Voter turnout in the referendum was a strong 81.27 per cent.

Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, who heads a Social Democrat-conservative coalition government, hailed the result as a "clear vote" which shows that "the Austrians have decided to take their fate into their own hands."

Foreign Minister Alois Mock, of the conservative People's Party, who negotiated the terms of Austria's EU membership with the 12 current union nations in March, called the vote "historic."

The great majority of my compatriots did not believe the arguments of the demagogues (opposed to membership) about the supposed transfer of Austria's gold to Brussels or the construction of nuclear power plants in Austria in the event of a 'yes'

vote," he said in a television interview.

President Thomas Klestil, who announced Friday that he planned to vote in favour of EU membership, said his country had "successfully passed the European test. The door towards an enlarged Europe is now wide open."

As the referendum results became known, pro-Europe youths gathered to celebrate outside Vienna's Ballhausplatz, which houses the government and presidency offices.

The official results showed that all Austrian provinces voted in favour of EU membership. In Burgenland, on the Hungarian border, which can expect a healthy chunk of EU regional development aid, 74.59 per cent voted for ratification of Austria's membership.

In Tyrol, where ecologists argued that EU membership would open the Alpine passes to the ravages of heavy European freight truck traffic, the "yes" vote still garnered 54.42 per cent of the vote.

Both pro- and anti-membership groups expressed surprise at the size of the "yes" majority after final opinion polls showed the pro-Europe camp garnering 57 per cent but with many voters undecided.

The vigorous election campaign was based on three main themes: National security; the price of consumer goods and the quality of food; the ecology and road transport through the Alpine valleys.

Those backing Austrian membership of the EU, led by Mr. Vranitzky and Mr. Mock, played heavily on the security issue, arguing that national security would be better guaranteed within a powerful community rather than in isolation.

The coalition of Social Democrats and conservatives, backed by trade unions, employers, the farmers' association, and both Roman Catholic and Protestant Church leaders said it was "vital" that Austria join the 12-state union for economic and political reasons.

They played heavily on key concessions gained in the enlargement negotiations which the government said would permit Austria to maintain its environmental protection standards and neutrality and guarantee the livelihood of Alpine farms via special EU aid to the "victims of EU membership."

Defence Minister Werner Fasslaband said the move would strengthen military security for the country,

which lies close to "an area of great instability" — a reference to war-torn neighbouring ex-Yugoslavia.

Those against membership, led notably by Joerg Haider, leader of the opposition national right and by the Greens, argued that Austria would lose its sovereignty and that its neutrality was incompatible with the EU's stated aim to tighten joint military actions.

They also complained that Austria would be required in the EU single market to open its ecologically delicate Alpine passes to heavy truck traffic between northern and southern Europe.

Sweden, Norway and Finland welcomed Austrian voters' massive approval of European Union membership Sunday as a boost for the "yes" camp ahead of their own referendums on the question later this year.

"The strong victory of the 'yes' in Austria is a positive signal ahead of the referendum in our country," Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt said.

Sweden is due to vote on Nov. 13 on whether to join the EU on Jan. 1, as scheduled under an agreement with Brussels. Norway is expected to vote on Nov. 28 with Finland voting on Oct. 16.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.K., China progress on land issue

HONG KONG (AP) — Britain and China announced progress Monday on the fate of military-owned land in Hong Kong, raising the colony's hopes for a smooth ride to the 1997 Chinese takeover. The apparent breakthrough coincided with the announcement of a high level British visit to Beijing next month, which was welcomed here as a sign that the two countries have opted for renewed cooperation after protracted wrangling over Governor Chris Patten's political reforms. British negotiator Alan Paul said he and his Chinese counterpart "have succeeded in some respects in narrowing the differences" on ceding real estate that the British army is vacating as it winds down its presence in the territory. The talks on military land are seen as a barometer of the two countries' ability to cooperate in transferring Hong Kong to Chinese rule. At stake in the 7-year-old negotiations are 39 sites, including an empty navy base in the heart of Hong Kong's financial district. Agreement is being sought on turning some of the sites over to commercial developers, while preparing others for the post-1997 Chinese garrison.

Germans, Russians hold naval exercise

GLUECKSBURG, Germany (AFP) — Reunited Germans and Russians Monday joined in their first naval exercise since the end of the cold war, military sources said. The two-day exercise, which began Monday in the Baltic Sea, was aimed at "establishing the basis for cooperation between German and Russian units at sea and improved mutual understanding," the commander of the German Navy in Gluecksburg said. Patrol boats, mine-hunters, a Russian frigate and a German supply ship are taking part in the exercise to the west of the Danish island of Bornholm, the source said.

Italian Socialist Party secretary quits

ROME (AFP) — The national secretary of the Italian Socialist Party (PSI), Ottaviano Del Turco, announced Monday that he was resigning following his party's crushing defeat in the European elections. "As of today, I am resigning," he said. "I have no intention of running again." The Socialist Party, linked to the Democratic Alliance Party, won only 1.8 per cent of votes in the Euro-poll Sunday compared to 14.8 per cent in the 1989 elections. The PSI, which was part of Italy's succession of post-war coalition governments, was severely hit by the corruption scandals that have rocked the country in the last two years.

Kenyan minister shot in the head

NAIROBI (AFP) — A Kenyan government minister was shot in the head by unidentified attackers as he drove into his home in the capital Nairobi, police and hospital officials said Monday. Junior Planning and Development Minister Oduya Opongo was rushed to hospital with two bullet wounds in the head after being shot Saturday evening, the officials said. Police arrested three people, including a Nairobi businessman, suspected of carrying out the attack and identified a car believed to have been used by suspects. A hospital spokesman said Opongo's condition as "stable" but doctors delayed an operation to remove a bullet from his skull until his condition improves. It was unknown whether the motive for the attack was political, police said.

3 Cubans defect to U.S.

KEY WEST, Florida (AFP) — Three Cubans flew their aging crop-duster to Florida Sunday seeking political asylum in the United States, authorities said. "I thought it was going to crash. It looked like a plane that was going too slow to fly," said navy spokesman Robert Lewis after the fabric-winged AN-2 Cub crop-duster landed at the Naval Air Station in Key West, Florida. Ariel Correa Gonzalez, 29, took off earlier Sunday from Aqua Clara, Cuba, on his routine field spraying job but then picked up his sister, Yennia Zabrana Gonzalez and her husband, Frank Alberto Beads, and kept on going, naval authorities said. Mr. Lewis said the three asked for political asylum when they got out on the runway at the U.S. base.

Latin America shoots for unity at summit

CARTAGENA, Colombia (AFP) — Latin American leaders hope to build cooperation on economic and social policies at an annual presidential summit starting here Tuesday.

Nineteen leaders from Latin America, Spain, Portugal and the Caribbean are to attend the summit in Cartagena, on Colombia's northern coast.

At the top of the agenda is an increase in cross-border cooperation in economic matters and the war on drugs, spokesmen for the summit said Sunday. Leaders hope to

come up with a plan for improving health, education and technical development in the region.

Foreign ministers arrived Sunday and heads of state were to arrive Monday for the two-day gathering, which ends Wednesday.

The spirit of cooperation is likely to be extended to beleaguered, communist Cuba, which will be represented by Fidel Castro.

Cuba is not on the official agenda, but will probably be brought up by some leaders, said Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin.

Haitian army — 7,500 men of modest means

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) — Haiti's army chief General Raoul Cedras has vowed his men will fight any U.S. invasion, but the force of some 7,500 has but modest means for fending off foreign troops.

Military experts in the impoverished Caribbean nation believe the Haitian army could not put up more than weak resistance to an invasion, though they acknowledge it could cause some major headaches for an occupying force.

The core of the army could launch an urban guerrilla campaign as well as terrorist attacks, said the same sources.

The majority of the regular forces — 5,300 men and 1,600 police personnel — was essentially recruited from the working class and the 925-member officers corp also generally comes from modest social stock.

The army has a second-in-command, Major General Jean-Claude Duperval, and a chief of staff, Brigadier General Philippe Biamby.

The high command is mainly made up of officers who graduated from the military academy in 1973, where Gen. Cedras, 44, was head of the class.

The graduation marked the reopening of the academy which Francois Duvalier — a dictator nicknamed "Papa Doc" who ruled from 1957 to 1971 — closed due to fears of a military coup.

He also charged that the officers were under Washington's influence.

The troops in the field are generally commanded by officers from the class of

1981, which included Port-Au-Prince Chief of Police, Michel Francois, a key player in the regime.

The best-equipped unit, which played a large role in the September 1991 ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide — is the motorized corps.

Some 300 strong, without officers, this corps is stationed in the southeast Port-Au-Prince. It has light armoured vehicles equipped with canons and machine guns.

The air force, with roughly 300 men, has three Italian-made, turbo-prop training craft, a half-dozen Cessna twin engine planes equipped with rockets — of which three or four aircraft still work — as well as a few Sikorsky helicopters including an H-58.

The navy, also with roughly 300 men, has a dozen U.S.-made patrol boats equipped with 20mm cannons or 12.7mm machine guns. Only half remain operational.

The light arms the troops carry are mainly G3 assault rifles and Uzzi machine guns, as well as Brazilian Taurus pistols and Belgian Fal assault rifles. A limited number of U.S.-made rifles — M16s and M18s — are also in use.

Besides the regular army, there are reserve troops, paramilitary forces and the police whose numbers are estimated at about 30,000 by diplomatic sources.

Average monthly pay ranges from \$330 for a soldier to \$1,300 for superior officers.

Brazil, Netherlands, Colombia succeed in exhibition action

The Associated Press

BRAZIL—The Netherlands and Colombia had successful finishes Sunday to their World Cup preparation campaigns.

Bebeto scored on a penalty kick and set up two other goals as Brazil beat El Salvador 4-0 Sunday at Fresno, Calif.

Romario scored in the ninth minute and Bebeto converted a penalty kick six minutes later. Zinho scored of a pass from Rai five minutes into the second half and Rai scored seven minutes later on a header off a pass from Bebeto.

The game was played in 95-degree F (35 degrees C) heat before 13,210 at Fresno State's Bulldog Stadium.

"That was the whole idea why this game was played in the afternoon," Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said. "It was important that the players feel the heat. They needed to know what they're going to face in eight days."

Brazil outshot El Salvador 18-3 and goalkeeper Zetti needed to make only two saves — none in the second half.

In other games, the Netherlands beat Canada 3-0, Sweden and Romania played a 1-1 tie and Colombia beat Palmeiras of Brazil 2-0.

At Toronto, Dennis Bergkamp, Marco Overmars and Frank Rijkaard scored first-half goals in the final warmup for the Dutch.

"We made three good goals and it could have been more but we said 'fine,'" Bergkamp said.

Canada, playing its fifth game in 12 days, appeared tired. The second half was played in a steady downpour, slowing the pace.

Bergkamp scored in the

WorldCupUSA



seventh minute when goalkeeper Craig Forrest allowed a rebound of Overmars' shot. Overmars streaked in from midfield six minutes later, faking a pass to Bergkamp before beating Forrest for a 2-0 lead.

Rijkaard scored with eight minutes to go in the first half on a shot that kicked by the foot of defender Randy Samuel.

At Mission Viejo, Calif., Gheorghe Hagi tied the game with a rocket free kick from 20 yards out with 15 minutes to go.

Klas Ingesson had scored off a rebound 11 minutes into the second half to put Sweden ahead.

"We're getting stronger and stronger," Ingesson said. "Our defence is real good. It will be real hard to beat us."

Romania is the third opponent for the United States in the first round.

"The whole team doesn't depend on me," Hagi insisted after his 22nd goal in 82 international games. "This game showed we'll have a good level of play during the World Cup."

At Pereira, Colombia, Freddy Rincon scored 15 minutes in and with five minutes left, and Adolfo Valencia converted a penalty kick 10 minutes into the second half for Colombia, the second first-round opponent for the United States.

Palmeiras finished three men short after the expulsion of Antonio Carlos, Roberto Carlos and Amaral.

At Daytona Beach, Belgium coach Paul Van Himst received a four-year contract extension.

"The past three years haven't been that bad. We got into the World Cup, so why not go on?" said Van Himst, who took over the "Red Devils" in May 1991.

With Norway's top two goalkeepers nursing shoulder injuries, the team's plump spokesman and its lanky captain were pressed into service during a spirited half-field scrimmage at Princeton, N.J.

"They shoot hard. From time to time I was suffering from a little anxiety," said captain Rune Bratseth, a defender, after his stint in the goal.

"Bratseth will have nightmares tonight," joked reserve goalie Frode Grodas, who took it easy during Sunday's practice after receiving a shot of cortisone, a drug used to treat inflammations. Bratseth, of Germany's Werder Bremen, limited his running due to a sore thigh.

Despite levity in the camp about Bratseth and team spokesman Kjell Borgersen, making debuts in goal, Norway's first World Cup team since 1938 remained concerned about tendinitis that has plagued star goalie Erik Thorstvedt for several months.

Thorstvedt, a 31-year-old who plays for England's Tottenham Hotspur, emerged from the locker room after a very light practice with an ice pack on his right shoulder.

"As long as I don't provoke it, it's fine," said Thorstvedt. He dismissed questions about starting in Norway's opener against Mexico June 19 in Washington.

"The match will be tough, not very nice to watch," he said. "It will end 0-0 or 1-1."

South Korea forward Hwang Sun-Hong, a veteran of 1990 World Cup, was injured in Saturday's 3-0 victory over Honduras and will be sidelined for at least two days.

Hwang, 26, hurt his left knee in a tackle with Naham Gonzales. Both received yellow cards.

"It's not game day yet," he said. "And I know I can play with the injury."

At Santa Cruz, Calif., the Russian soccer team is trying to seal itself off from reporters and fans.

Tight security surrounds the Chaminade Conference Centre overlooking Santa Cruz, where the Russians are staying. No cameras or photographers are allowed during practice at nearby Cabrillo College.

"We want peace and quiet," said Nikita Simonyan, Russia's manager. "We don't want reporters or fans bothering us while we prepare for the important opening match."

Russia opens World Cup play June 20 against Brazil at Stanford Stadium. Group B also includes Sweden and Cameroon.

Despite missing four stars who refused to play for coach Pavel Sadyrin, the team is cautiously optimistic.

"No one should underestimate us," forward Sergei Yuran said, defying the team's self-imposed ban on interviews with reporters.

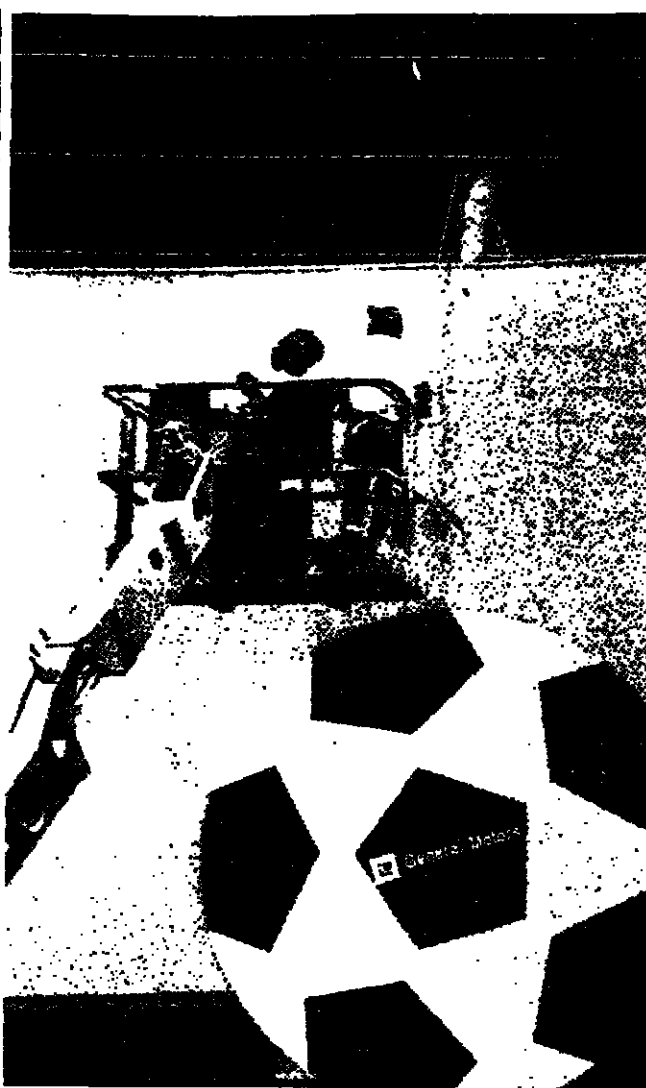
"We can manage at least a tie against powerful Brazil."

Teammate Oleg Salenko has an idea how the game will go.

"The match will be tough, not very nice to watch," he said. "It will end 0-0 or 1-1."

South Korea forward Hwang Sun-Hong, a veteran of 1990 World Cup, was injured in Saturday's 3-0 victory over Honduras and will be sidelined for at least two days.

Hwang, 26, hurt his left knee in a tackle with Naham Gonzales. Both received yellow cards.



Workers use a crane to put up a giant soccer ball at the Pontiac Silverdome Sunday. With six days ahead of the opening match here between hosts the U.S. and Switzerland, preparations for the largest single sport event in the world are in full swing (AFP photo)

Other sports stunt U.S. coverage of World Cup

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Basketball's playoff finals, golf's U.S. Open and the U.S. national past-time are limiting newspaper coverage of the World Cup.

The largest U.S. newspapers reserve their largest headlines for the National Basketball Association (NBA) best-of-seven finals between the New York Knicks and Houston Rockets.

Next week's U.S. Open golf tournament and next month's Major League Baseball All-Star Game also threaten to siphon attention away from the host nation of the 52-team global football finals.

"We're preaching the religion to the non-converted," said Kathleen McElroy, who handles New York Times coverage of the World Cup. The 1.3 million readers will have in-depth coverage, but much of it will be explaining elementary rules.

"We want to try to strike a balance, not force feed them," McElroy said, noting the paper has had consistent coverage of preparations as one of nine venues for the matches.

The Times has spent much of its space on the Knicks seeking their first NBA title since 1973 and the New York Rangers' quest for their first National Hockey League crown since 1940, the longest drought for any U.S. club in any sport except baseball.

Outside the host cities for matches, the World Cup has an even tougher fight. The Houston Chronicle's 466,000 buyers want coverage of their hometown Rockets and baseball Astros, but have a passion for American football that lasts year-round.

In Indianapolis, the annual Indy 500 race played below news of the Indiana Pacers reaching the NBA semifinals. World Cup news was squeezed into briefs, even though the June 17 opener was just three hours away in Chicago.

"Interest here is not very large," said David Witke, sports editor of the Des Moines Register, in a large Midwest market. "With one package a day, we can satisfy our readers."

That will not work in Los Angeles, where special editions will be printed in Spanish and English. The newspaper will cover every match, unlike most publications who will use wire service reports.

"We will cover every match with our own people, not just the final here," John Chevre of the Los Angeles Times said.

The San Francisco Chronicle will have four reporters and two photographers following the U.S. team. Much of the World Cup coverage outside the venue cities will focus on the host nation's quest.

Odds, hopes are down about Italy's World Cup chances

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Italian fans, who probably will be the most noticeable foreigners at the World Cup this summer, are down about their team's chances to win the tournament.

The "Azzurri" (the Italian nickname for the blue-jerseyed team) had difficulty qualifying and were not assured of a berth until their final game. Since then, Italy has lost to France, Germany and Pontedera, a third-division club in the Italian league.

"I have an ambition to take to the United States a team which can play enjoyable and interesting soccer, which in any case can be a protagonist, not be just one of the many teams in the tournament," Italy coach Arrigo Sacchi said.

In 1990, soccer-crazed Italy hosted the World Cup, and each victory set off a procession of tens of thousands of fans honking horns, toting banners and chanting along the Via del Corso in central Rome for all-night celebrations at the Piazza Venezia, a few blocks from the ancient Colosseum.

But Italy was knocked out by Argentina on penalty kicks in the semifinals. Although the Azzurri beat England in the third-place game, their confidence was shaken. The Italians, who last won the World Cup in 1982, failed to even qualify for the 1992 European Championship and coach Azeglio Vicini was fired and replaced by Sacchi, who had led AC Milan to consecutive European champions Cup titles.

Antonio Matarrese, president of the Federazione Italiana Giuoco Calcio, the governing body of Italian soccer, did not even wait until the end of European championship qualifying to fire Vicini.

Sacchi said last month that he would be satisfying to fire Vicini.

Sacchi said last month that he would be satisfied with a fourth-place finish. That will not satisfy Matarrese and the "Tifosi," Italy's win-at-all-cost fans.

"I think and I hope we can do better than fourth," Matarrese says. "However only God knows ... soccer is unpredictable."

The backbone of the Italian team is formed by AC Milan players, especially on defense. But AC Milan's top players under Sacchi, Raul Gullit and Frank Rijkaard, are Dutch.

"We are a strong group and we can be protagonists," said defender Nicola Berti, a 1990 World Cup veteran who plays for Internazionale, AC Milan's crosstown rival.

The problems faced by the Italian team derive mostly from Sacchi's inability to reproduce Milan's zone defense and midfield pressing during the short preparation camps prior to World Cup qualifiers. He lamented the crowded Italian league schedule and the lack of attention paid to the national team by Italian clubs.

"However, the key for the World Cup is the preparation, which will be careful and, I hope, successful," Sacchi said.

Italian players, who completed their league season May 1, were to train for nearly three weeks before flying to the United States June 7.

Italy, which opens against Ireland before facing Norway and Mexico in Group E, figures to qualify for the second round. If it wins its group and Germany wins Group C, the two would be headed for a quarterfinal matchup at Giants Stadium July 10.

Italy originally was considered a top contender to win the tournament, along with Germany, Brazil and Argentina. Even Sacchi says Brazil, Germany and the Netherlands should be listed ahead of Italy at this point.

Following the 1-0 loss to France and the 2-1 loss to Germany, some fans have given up hope.

Sacchi's roster included seven players of AC Milan, including its four starting defenders: Franco Baresi, Mauro Tassotti, Paolo Maldini and Alessandro Costacurta. Antonio Benarrivo of Parma probably will start over Tassotti.

Two other AC Milan players, Demetrio Albertini and 30-year-old Roberto Donadoni, team at midfield with Dino Baggio of Juventus of Turin, who scored Italy's goal in the final qualifying game against Portugal.

Golf tournament

The British Ambassador's Golf Tournament was marked by the biggest turnout of 50 competitors Friday, June 10 at the Bisharat nine-hole golf course.

Sponsored by the Forte Grand Amman and co-sponsored by Royal Jordanian and Emirates Airlines, the trophies and prizes of the five-division tournament were presented to the winners by H.R.H. Princess Mona.

Australian Bill Richardson was the overall winner of the Ambassador's trophy and Forte Grand's golf weekend for two in Dubai, tickets courtesy of Emirates Airlines.

Mrs. C. H. Kim won second place overall and was presented with a trophy and a Forte Grand golf weekend for two in Dubai, tickets courtesy of Royal Jordanian.

World Cup ticket wrangles hot up

CHICAGO, Illinois (AFP) — Thousands of World Cup tickets remain unsold just five days before the start of the event — and fans unhappy with their tickets are heading to the courts.

The opening match between defending champions Germany and Bolivia at Chicago's Soldier Field is sold out, but there are still thousands of tickets available for matches in Dallas, Texas, and Detroit, Michigan.

Rather than risk playing in front of partially filled stands, World Cup officials have asked tour operators to give them to charities.

"We don't want people sitting with bunches of tickets in their desk drawers," said

World Cup spokesman Jim Trecker. "We don't want to see empty seats."

Of the 3.6 million tickets for the 52 matches, 15 per cent — about 547,500 — were allocated for tour operators in the United States.

One tour operator in Virginia has given his unsold tickets for matches in Detroit's Silverdome to a children's hospital in the city.

At the same time, fans unhappy with the seats they were assigned when tickets were distributed early this month, have filed a lawsuit against World Cup USA charging negligence and breach of contract.

Some of them have received tickets for venues other than those requested or for seats that were supposed to be together but are not.

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PROPERTIES FOR SALE

The Embassy of the United States of America, Amman, Jordan, is offering for sale the following two properties.

1. The former U.S. Ambassador residence parcel No. (2052) in block No. (33) with the buildings and constructions thereon situated in Jabal Amman between the First and Second Circle opposite Al Kuliyah Al Islamiyah.

2. The former American Embassy warehouse parcel No. (38) block No. (11) with the buildings and constructions thereon situated in Jabal Amman Seventh Circle, near Al Waha Stores.

Vacant possession of the properties is expected to be provided on or about August 25, 1994.

Information about the properties and instructions for interested buyers may be obtained by delivering a letter of interest to Mr. Joseph Huggins, Counselor for Administration at the American Embassy, Amman, Jordan not later than July 5, 1994.

All letters of interest must be submitted by and in the name of the bidders themselves or their legally authorized representatives (if they are a registered legal entity). Proof of agency may be required from any agent at any time.

The U.S. Embassy will not pay any fees, commissions or expenses to real estate agents, brokers or middlemen of any sort or to any persons whoever they may be.

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Countdown starts for Jazireh women basketball tournament

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The countdown has already begun for one of the season's exceptional sporting events — Al Jazireh's international women's basketball tournament, a week-long event scheduled to take place at Amman's Sports Palace July 23-29 grouping top five regional women's teams.

Al Jazireh — Jordan's newly crowned reigning women's champions — will be hosting Syria's Al Jala', Lebanon's Homentmen, a select team from the occupied territories, in addition to a young promising team — Kefalovryos of Cyprus.

Rivalry is expected to be quite tough as the five participating teams all have a good record, experience and reputation.

Lebanon's Homentmen are the top contenders for the title.

With six players on the Lebanese national team, Homentmen are now considered one of the Arab World's top teams. Their new recruit Emma Beglarian, an astonishing height of 1.95 will surely give much impetus to their already mighty lineup, trained by national team coach Hagop Khacharian.

This season they clinched the Lebanon Cup, and were recently crowned league champions after defeating rivals Antranik Club 74-43, thus staging a powerful comeback after a decades-long interruption of regular competitions due to the civil war.

The Lebanese team boasts an astonishing record of winning their country's championship from 1956-1975, losing the title only once in 1968.

They last played in Jordan in July 1992 when they were hosted by Jordanian counterparts Homentmen Amman. During their visit they crushed Al Jazireh — then the Kingdom's third team — 80-29, and defeated then champions Al Orthodoxi 78-

50, and their hosts 56-16. Homentmen are scheduled to attend a training camp in France before arriving in Amman July 22.

Al Jala' are Syria's second ranked team this year after losing the title to Al Horiyyeh this season.

During friendly matches in Aleppo earlier this year, Al Jala' beat Al Jazireh twice with a margin of 20 points.

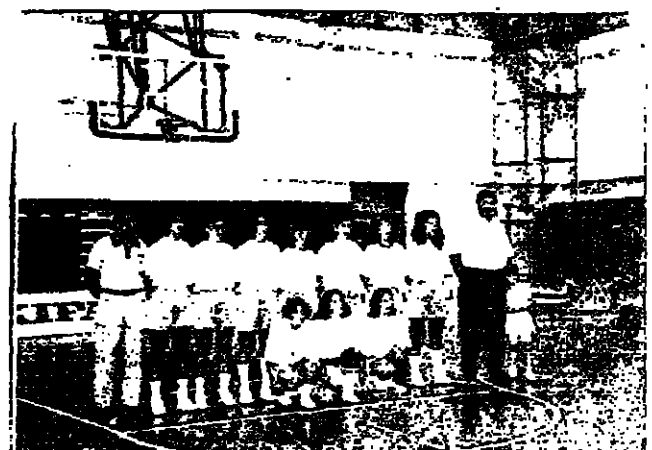
The Cypriot team — Kefalovryos — is relatively the most inexperienced team making their first regional appearance.

The club, which was originally based in the now Turkish-controlled town of Kythrea in northern Cyprus, is now based in the southeastern towns of Paralimni and

have met Czechoslovakia, Romania and Belorussia. Al Jazireh's tournament will be their basketball team's first competition abroad.

During a visit of the club's officials to Amman last month, Kefalovryos' Acting President Aristides Aristidou and honorary President Pantelakis Pantzias held meetings with the Jordan basketball and handball federation and agreed on a series of measures to enhance future cooperation.

It was agreed that Jordan's national women's handball team would play in Cyprus in July, and that Kefalovryos' women's handball would play in Amman in November. Al Jazireh's women's team will also be hosted by the Cypriot



Lebanese champions — Homentmen — will be a strong contender for the title

Larnaca. It is sponsored by KEO, the island's biggest distillery.

While the club's women's basketball team was only formed two years ago and finished fifth among eight competing teams in the first division, their women's handball team has been Cyprus' champions for the past three years, with 8 players being members of the Cypriot national team.

Despite their handball team's competitions in the European Cup, and Cup Winners Cup in which they club later this year.



Sweden's Stefan (L) shoots in pain as he is stopped by Russia's Valeri Gopin during the final match of the European Handball Championships here Sunday. Sweden beat Russia 34-21 and took the trophy (AFP photo)

Sidecar star Prior loses fight for life

MANNHEIM, Germany (AFP) — Britain's Simon Prior died here Monday following a horrific high-speed crash in the sidecar German Grand Prix.

The 41-year-old hit a track-side barrier on the 14th lap of Sunday's race and suffered head and internal injuries and a broken spine.

Prior, whose sidecar was ridden by Yoshisada Kumagaya of Japan, was taken to Ludwigshafen hospital. His death was announced by the international sidecar federation.

The crash occurred when the sidecar driven by Austrian Klaus Klaffenboeck went out of control at more than 200kmh (125mph). The car ricocheted off the left-hand crash barriers and spun

back onto the track, causing a three-machine pile-up.

A federation spokesman said: "Prior died on Monday. He was in a coma immediately after the accident. He suffered major internal injuries."

He added Prior's wife Julia was at his side when he died. Austrian passenger Christian Parzer was also injured in the accident but recovered overnight and was able to leave hospital.

The German race was cancelled after the accident. The tragedy follows the death of Japan's Nobuyuki Wakai May 1 last year at the sidecar Spanish Grand Prix. Venezuelan Ivan Palazzese was the last competitor to die at Hockenheim, in 1989.

Tracy beats Unser to win Indy race

DETROIT, Michigan (AFP) — Canada's Paul Tracy nudged teammate Al Unser's leading car into a tire barrier, then went on to win the Detroit Indy-car Grand Prix here Sunday.

Tracy won his sixth career Indy-car race and first of the year, but also ended his Penske Racing teammate's three-race win streak. Unser recovered to finish 10th after leading much of the way.

"It's a tough way to win," Tracy said. "I have some apologising to do. The only thing I can do is offer my hand in apology. I put him out of the race. It was my mistake."

Unser led most of the race, but Tracy pulled close behind during a caution period for a crash by England's Nigel Mansell. Unser braked as he came upon a slower car going around a corner along the 2.1-mile (3.36km) street course. That's when Tracy struck Unser's car from behind, sending it into a tire barrier along the outer edge of the course.

"We got into heavy traffic and the guy in front of Al braked early," Tracy said. "I got up too close to Al and I sent him into the wall."

"Sometimes you eat the bear and sometimes the bear eats you," Unser said. "Today the bear ate us."

Brazil's Fittipaldi finished second, giving Roger Penske's team a second straight 1-2 finish and their fifth straight triumph of the year. "Al was obviously disappointed. I'm sure he and Paul will have a discussion about it," Penske said. "Those things happen in racing. Even though you hate to see one of your cars take out another, you need to keep the competition going. Paul learned something."

Rockets edge Knicks in NBA final series

NEW YORK (AFP) — Rookie Sam Cassell sank a 3-point shot and four free throws in the final 34 seconds here Sunday, National Basketball Association (NBA) finals.

The victory gave the Rockets a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven championship series, with game four Wednesday in New York.

Houston coach Rudy Tomjanovich had been second-guessed for leaving the first-year player in the game in crucial situations, but Cassell proved his worth by hitting a 3-point shot with 34 seconds remaining to put the Rockets ahead 89-88.

"I know I'm still learning," Cassell said. "It has been that way all year. But my teammates have a lot of confidence in me."

New York's Patrick Ewing was called for a blocking foul to set up two more Cassell free throws. John Starks put New York within 91-89 on a free throw with 3.9 seconds to play, but he deliberately missed the second shot and Houston's Otis Thorpe grabbed the rebound. Cassell sank two final free throws to seal the victory.

"This makes us feel great," Cassell said. "We have always been a great road team. Now we have our home court advantage back."

Game five will be Friday in New York, with the final two

games in Houston if necessary.

Ewing, who had missed 17 of his 24 prior shots, gave New York their first lead at 82-81 on an inside jumper with 2:51 to play. But Thorpe responded with a 3-point play to put the Rockets ahead again, and then slammed in a game tying-dunk with 1:17 remaining after Ewing had put the Knicks ahead again.

Derek Harper, who led New York with 21 points, sank an outside shot with 55 seconds remaining to give the Knicks an 88-86 lead, setting the stage for Cassell's late heroics.

Hakeem Olajuwon led the Rockets with 21 points. Robert Horry added 16 points and Cassell had 15 for Houston. Starks had 20 and Ewing added 18 for the Knicks.

Before a loud and emotional crowd of more than 17,000 fans at Madison Square Garden, the Knicks suffered only their second home playoff loss of the year in 11 games.

Houston opened the game with an 11-2 run and finished the first period with an 8-1 spurt, seizing command and denying the Knicks throughout the first three quarters. Harper sparked a 12-3 run to end the first half, pulling the Knicks within 45-38 at the break.

Schumacher goes for victory in Canadian GP

MONTREAL (AP) — Michael Schumacher continues to surprise himself, even as the rest of the Formula One world has grown accustomed to his domination.

Schumacher led from start to finish in waltzing to victory in the Canadian Grand Prix Sunday, his fifth victory in six races this season. The only race he lost was two weeks ago in Spain — and then he placed second despite having only fifth gear in his Benetton Ford.

"I was very confident we could do it, but in Barcelona we had a technical problem — which always can happen. So I wasn't sure what kind of feelings I should have for this weekend," Schumacher said. "Certainly after this win, there is more confidence for all of us. The luck is back with us, you might say."

The 25-year-old German, with a virtual stranglehold on the Formula One title with 10 races remaining, said he began the year hoping he could finish as high as second in the points chase. He figured the Williams-Renault team would have the winner.

"If you go on what we did last year, the Williams was maybe a second faster all year. I was sure we could do a better job with our car but I certainly wasn't expecting that much," he said. "And certainly I expected

them to improve as well. In relations, it looks like we improved more than we expected and it looks like Williams has gone a step backward. I wasn't expecting this; I think Damon wasn't expecting this."

The different direction the teams have taken was on the scoreboard for all to see: Schumacher blistered Damon Hill of Britain by 39.660 seconds, and that could have been more had Schumacher not slowed seconds, and that could have been more had Schumacher not slowed three turns from the end of the last lap to raise his visor and wave his arm at the crowd alongside Circuit Gilles Villeneuve.

"I enjoyed the race, enjoyed the weekend and had a good time," Hill said. "We didn't win; that's the only drawback."

Schumacher, who started from the pole, streaked away from the start and at the end of the first 90-second lap had a lead of 1.767 seconds over Jean Alesi's Ferrari. His lead jumped to almost five seconds in only five laps.

Hill took over second on the 31st lap when Jean Alesi pitted his Ferrari and held the spot to the finish. But Hill could not get close to Schumacher, who led by more than 30 seconds by the time he came out following a pit stop on the 40th lap.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI

©1993 Jordan Times, Amman, JORDAN

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q853 ♠105 ♣J106 ♣984
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass Pass Dbl
Rdbl 2 ♠
What action do you take?
- Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J10 ♠82 ♣9843 ♣J32
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass Pass Dbl
Rdbl 2 ♠
What action do you take?
- Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q875 ♠K4 ♣75 ♣K1082
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Dbl Pass 2 ♠
What action do you take?
- Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ96 ♠Q102 ♣AKJ4 ♣104
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 2 ♠
What action do you take?
- Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQ76 ♠95 ♣AJ8 ♣AK94
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond. What action do you take?
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AK5 ♠9843 ♠8 ♣108973
Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What do you respond?

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The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, Supply Department, until 2:00 p.m. local time Sunday June 26, 1994. Application for documents should be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of JD (25) for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for submitting tenders is 12:00 hours local time Saturday July 2, 1994.

Sameh Madani
Managing Director

T O D A Y	Cinema	Tel.: 634144	Cinema	Tel.: 699238	Cinema	Tel.: 677420	Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Tel.: 675571	Nabil & Hisham's	Tel.: 625155
	PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN THEATRE	Nabil Al Mashal Theatre	AHLAN THEATRE	
	Tom Cruise & Holly Hunter in The Firm Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00		Farouq Al Fishawi/Fih Abdo in The Night of Murder (ARABIC) Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD '1' LOVER BOY Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' THE GETAWAY Shows: 12:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:15		Soon the new play!!!	Today & Everyday Abu Awwad in social comedy "PUNCTURED BAG"	Present their play: WHAT A PEACE! (Salam Ya Salam) Daily at 8:30 p.m. The theatre is closed on Tuesdays.	

Arab Potash boosts output capacity by 28%

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With the completion of the first phase of an expansion project formally marked on Sunday, the Arab Potash Company (APC) has raised its annual production capacity by 28 per cent to 1.8 million tonnes of potash.

The second phase of expansion calls for raising the output capacity to 2.2 million by the year 1998.

At current market prices the increase in the first phase of expansion would bring total APC production to around \$170 million and raise Jordan's share of world output of potash to around 5.5 per cent.

The expansion project, carried out at a cost of \$125 million raising total investment in the APC to

more than \$650 million, is separate from an APC plan to diversify its production by adding four or five other minerals in its output from Dead Sea waters, a senior company official said.

Jafar Salem, deputy marketing manager of the company, said the additions would include magnesium oxide, bromine, industrial salt and potassium sulphate.

This phase of APC expansion, estimated to cost between \$350 million and \$400 million, will be carried out under the umbrella of a separate JD60 million capital holding company comprising the APC, the Jordan Investment Corporation, the Social Security Corporation and other local

institutions.

At present, the only production at the APC plant at Ghor Al Safi on the shores of the Dead Sea south of Amman is potash, said Mr. Salem, correcting a widely held view that the first phase of the expansion marked on Sunday meant that the plant would be producing magnesium oxide.

He said the wider expansion plant is expected to be completed by 1997-98.

The company has scaled down an ambitious expansion programme estimated to cost around \$2.5 billion to \$3 billion under which most of the 30 to 35 minerals and precious metals in Dead Sea waters were expected to be extracted.

The logic in Dead Sea water exploitation, experts say, is that it becomes

relatively easier to extract additional minerals and metals at every stage where one element is separated, as the case is with potash. At the end of the line, the experts say, are even gold and uranium.

In 1993, a year marked by a recession and strong competition from former Soviet republics in the world market for potash, the APC exported 1.47 million tonnes of potash, an increase of 20 per cent. Total turnover was JD91.88 million, with potash accounting for JD88.14 million. Salt sales, interest revenue, and others made up the rest.

Indonesia led the list of APC's clients during the year, accounting for 311,600 tonnes of the company's exports, followed by China with 246,960 tonnes and India

with 241,900 tonnes. The other major buyer from the APC during the year was Malaysia with 168,350 tonnes. Other Asian clients included Korea, Japan, the Philippines, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Taiwan and Australia.

In Europe, Africa and the Middle East, which collectively accounted for 16.4 per cent of APC sales during 1993 (Asia accounted for the rest), the companies importers included Brazil, France, Italy, Turkey, Greece, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, the U.S., Belgium, Sudan and Yemen.

Canada has the highest share of world production of potash, with 33.14 per cent of the 35 million tonnes registered in 1993, followed by Russia with 27.72 per cent and Europe with 22 per cent and the

U.S. with 5.71 per cent. Others are largely insignificant.

North America and Europe each consumed 26.09 per cent of the 1993 output, followed by Asia with 21.16 per cent, Russia with 12.46 per cent and Latin America with 11.3 per cent.

The APC posted a gross income of JD25.4 million and a net income of JD22.1 million for the year 1993 compared with JD28 million in 1992, JD38 million in 1991, JD39 million in 1990 and JD41 million in 1989. The decline in profits was attributed to a sharp drop in the world prices hit by undercutting from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) made up of former Soviet republics.

The potash industry enters 1994 with a firm

footing and is supported further by definite signs of a redress in the supply/demand formula leading to justifiable but cautious optimism," said the APC's annual report for 1993.

The APC has a paid-up capital of JD72.45 million. The government of Jordan is the major shareholder with 56.63 per cent through its investment arm, the Jordan Investment Corporation. The Arab Mining Company holds 22.82 per cent. Other shareholders are the government of Iraq (5.18 per cent), the state-owned Kuwaiti Investment Authority (4.34 per cent), the Libyan government (4.34 per cent), the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (5.52 per cent) and the government of Saudi Arabia (0.79 per cent).

COLUMN 8

Not to worry, it's just a 'temper eruption'

WASHINGTON (AP) — For aides who witnessed President Bill Clinton's outbursts of anger in 1993, the word "temper" was inadequate. So they invented nicknames — "purple fits," "earthquakes" or "wave." And now, thanks to senior adviser David Gergen, there are "temper eruptions." Gergen coined the phrase Sunday in an attempt to defend his boss, whose bouts of rage are described in Washington Post reporter Bob Woodward's new book, *The Clinton White House*. "I have seen very, very few — temper eruptions," Mr. Gergen added. Oddly, he sounded like campaign worker Betsey Wright, who upset colleagues in 1992 by describing rumours of Mr. Clinton's womanising as "bimbo eruptions." Mr. Gergen, a veteran of Republican administrations who joined Mr. Clinton's staff a year ago, is depicted in Mr. Woodward's book as being "stunned by a Clinton One, the presidential jet. Appearing on television, Mr. Gergen confirmed he was 'surprised' by Mr. Clinton's reaction upon learning his staff had not arranged a meeting with Chicago Mayor Richard Daley. He did not comment on Mr. Woodward's entire account, which reports that "Gergen was concerned about Clinton. The incident on the airplane was not isolated. Many mornings the president came into the office, seized on some bad news or leak to the press, and let loose for up to 10 minutes." The remarks raised questions about how Mr. Woodward found out about the outburst and Mr. Gergen's purported private concerns. Who, other than Mr. Gergen, could have leaked that? "I don't know who told him," Mr. Gergen insisted. Mr. Woodward has not revealed his sources. While avoiding outright denials, the White House has tried to play down the book. Mr. Gergen said reading it "was like looking at a mirror in a fun house, which is to say I found this to often be a distorted view of conversations."

Philippe Petit draws major crowd

FRANKFURT (AFP) — French tightrope walker Philippe Petit brought central Frankfurt to a standstill Sunday, inching his way across a razor-thin wire strung between the bell towers of two historic churches. Some 300,000 people crowded into central Frankfurt to watch as the 45-year-old acrobat took to the wire 80 metres (260 feet) above their heads and linking the bell towers of Frankfurt Cathedral and St Paul's Church. Mr. Petit, who has previously tightrope walked between the twin towers of the World Trade Centre in New York at a height of 435 metres (1,400 feet), took half an hour to make the 300 metre (1,000 foot) crossing in gusty conditions. An hour before the show started, weather services advised against any attempt to cross the wire and predicted gusts of wind at up to 50 kilometres (30 miles) an hour. Organisers said the event was a first for Germany. Frankfurt Mayor Andreas Von Schoeler said the tightrope walk marked the "apogee of the festivities organised for Frankfurt's jubilee." Germany's financial capital celebrates its 1,200th anniversary this year at an estimated cost of 2.5 million marks (\$1.47 million).

Bandaranaike is doing well after surgery

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka opposition leader Sirima Bandaranaike, who was the world's first elected woman premier, was doing well after surgery in Singapore Monday, a family member said. Mrs. Bandaranaike was reported to have undergone a 90 minute operation at Singapore General Hospital to correct a disorder of the 78-year-old politician's toes that had hampered her walking. "She is doing fine. But she has been ordered about two weeks of bed rest," the family member said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli 'copters land in Bekaa Valley'

BAALBEK (AFP) — Two Israeli helicopters landed in the Bekaa Valley on Saturday near the spot where commandos last month abducted a Muslim leader, police here said Monday. The helicopters touched down for a few minutes after dusk near Forzol and left before a Lebanese army patrol could arrive at the scene, they said. There was no immediate explanation for the landing. Overnight Sunday Israeli fighter-jets buzzed the Bekaa Valley, a correspondent in the town of Baalbek said. Airborne Israeli commandos snatched Mustafa Dirani from his Bekaa home on May 21 in a bid to obtain information on missing Israeli airman Ron Arad, whose plane was shot down over South Lebanon in 1986. Less than two weeks later Israeli warplanes killed 50 people in a raid on a training camp of Hizbollah guerrillas near the Syrian border in the Bekaa. Israeli aircraft have made almost daily reconnaissance flights over the Bekaa plain and South Lebanon since the June 2 raid as Hizbollah vowed to avenge its martyrs.

Arafat bids farewell to Tunis at OAU summit

TUNIS (AFP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said farewell to his Tunis headquarters in a speech before the annual summit of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) here Monday. "We are only bidding farewell to fraternal Tunisia in order to return to Palestine," he said, before going on to outline the challenges facing Palestinian self-rule. Mr. Arafat, who is expected to travel to Gaza and Jericho within the next two weeks, also welcomed the entry of newly democratic South Africa to the OAU, hailing President Nelson Mandela. He said: "Tunisia is bidding us farewell to Palestine and is receiving a great militant who has led his people towards liberation and victory."

Experts unearth Christian presence in Gulf

ABU DHABI (AFP) — British archaeologists excavating on a small Gulf island have unearthed evidence of Christian civilisation before the advent by Islam, a member of the team said Monday. The excavations on the United Arab Emirates (UAE) islands of Sir Bani Yas revealed a large complex with at least one courtyard and no less than 15 separate rooms, said chief archaeologist Geoffrey King. He told the daily Emirates News that the complex included an area used for cooking and other rooms, many with finely plastered walls and doorways. "As a result of earlier work, it had become clear to us that we were dealing with buildings of considerable quality and importance with decoration deriving ultimately from the classical and late antique world," he said. "The role of at least one building on the site was clarified by the discovery of three finely carved crosses that indicated the existence of a Christian community on Sir Bani Yas on the eve of the coming of Islam" in the 7th century. Mr. King has headed a team excavating on Sir Bani Yas and other UAE islands over the past two years at the request of President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan.

Pakistan denies German expulsion report

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan on Monday denied a report that two of its diplomats in Germany had been expelled for their involvement in the purchase of weapons-grade nuclear material. A Foreign Office spokesman here said the report, to be broadcast by German television, was "factually incorrect," and "no Pakistani diplomat has been expelled from Germany as asserted in the report," he insisted that Pakistan observes export laws in purchasing sophisticated material from foreign firms. The state-run German television report blamed two German firms for illegally supplying Pakistan with key components for the production of weapons-grade nuclear material and long-range carrier missiles.

Herat province governor on peace mission

KABUL (AFP) — Ismael Khan, a top commander and governor of Herat province, was meeting Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar on Monday to discuss his formula for ending five months of fighting, he said. Ismael Khan had met with embattled President Burhanuddin Rabbani and a pro-Saudi Arabian leader, Rasul Sayyaf of the Ittihad-e-Islami faction, since arriving Thursday on a peace mission, the aide added. He said Ismael Khan was seeking a negotiated settlement of the fighting between the forces of Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Hekmatyar which has raged since an aborted Jan. 1 coup staged by the president's former communist ally, General Abdul Rashid Dostum. Mr. Rabbani has survived but the battle for Kabul has claimed more than 2,500 lives, while some 17,000 people have been wounded.

Iranian guards to change jobs with wives

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's Revolutionary Guards personnel are to change jobs with their wives one day this week on Thursday in a bid for them to become familiar with each other's responsibilities, an official said. Brigadier-General Alireza Afshar, head of the Basij or volunteer force within the guards (pasdaran), said the plan was part of a week-long campaign to promote Islamic values. The campaign, which began on Saturday and is also aimed at rooting out "social corruption," lends focus to a particular issue each day, with Thursday being named "the day of strengthening family values." Gen. Afshar, quoted by newspapers here, said the Islamic volunteers, estimated at more than 300,000, are to be dispatched in Basij cultural centres throughout the nation to provide family counselling. All of the "official personnel" on active duty would also be covered by the plan.

Tension rises in W. Bank over prisoners

JERICHO (AP) — Opposition to restricting some released Palestinian prisoners to the self-rule areas grew explosive Monday, sparking calls by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leaders to renegotiate the issue with Israel.

Prisoners still in jail threatened to take action against PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, and in the West Bank city of Nablus Israeli troops fired tear-gas to disperse relatives outside a prison.

The frustration was clearly evident among scores of prisoners themselves, set free in this enclave of Palestinian rule and then told those with violent records could not go home.

"We cannot be here for the rest of our lives, if we are really free then we must go back to our homes," said released prisoner Nasser Abu Hmeid from Amari refugee camp in Ramallah.

Mr. Abu Hmeid, convicted of killing 12 Palestinians suspected of being Israeli informants, had served four years of nine consecutive life sentences. He was among 287 prisoners dropped off in Jericho Friday.

Israel agreed in the May 4 implementation of the Palestinian self-rule, to release 5,000 prisoners within five weeks. Israel says 500



Palestinian youths from all Gaza Strip stage a noisy demonstration on Monday demanding the release of Palestinians detained in Israeli jails (AFP photo)

have been released, while Palestinians put the number at under 2,500.

"The agreement mandates the release of 5,000, but so far less than half of them have been released," Faisal Hussein, a member of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) that will supervise self-rule, told Israel Radio. Israel has said it will not

release supporters of Islamic and other groups that oppose the peace treaty, nor around 500 prisoners convicted of killing or wounding Israelis.

The agreement stipulates that Palestinians handed over to the PNA, basically those convicted for violent crimes, serve out their terms under self-rule. Israeli officials have in-

sisted that the agreement stands.

It was one of the many complex details in the treaty that the Palestinian public was not aware of, and the shock of discovery fuelled protests in areas still under occupation.

In Nablus, the largest town on the West Bank with 120,000 people, Israeli sol-

diers used tear-gas to disperse protesters trying to reach a prison, which holds 760 prisoners.

They carried placards reading "No to exile in Gaza and Jericho."

Another member of the PNA, Jamil Tarif, attempted to defuse some of the tension by briefing prisoners still held on the details of their release.

The prisoners seemed in no mood to listen.

"We will turn things upside down," prisoners from Mr. Arafat's Fatah faction threatened in a letter to Major General Abdul Razak Yehia, chief liaison officer for talks with Israel.

They demanded that a 12-member prison team take part in the negotiations and that they stick to the demand of releasing all prisoners.

Mr. Hussein suggested a new agreement be worked out because of the growing problems.

"All prisoners must have the right to be released and return home regardless of what they did," he said.

Mohammad Shaker, a spokesman for the Palestinian forces in Jericho, said Israel accepted that 159 with low sentences can go home, but 128 lifers had to stay.

He denied Israeli reports that giving the prisoners the run of the town had allowed five to escape.

Geagea charged in church blast

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Former militia warlord Samir Geagea was charged Monday in a February church bombing that killed 10 worshippers and wounded 60. An examining magistrate recommended the death penalty if a court convicted Dr. Geagea.

The charge sheet issued by examining Magistrate Joseph Freiha also levelled charges against seven members of Dr. Geagea's disbanded Lebanese Forces militia, including his former chief of staff, Fuad Malek.

Dr. Geagea was charged with "terrorist acts by using explosives, which endangered state security," according to the charge sheet.

Mr. Freiha said the charge against Dr. Geagea and four other followers could be punishable by penalties ranging from prison terms up to death if convictions were obtained.

The charge sheet said there "wasn't enough evidence" to charge Mr. Malek in the church bombing. But he was accused of involvement in "preparations by the Lebanese forces to overthrow the regime with illegal methods." He also was charged with "possession and distribution of weapons."

Judge Freiha turned over his request to state prosecutor Munif Oweidat paving the way for the start of the trial, state-run Tele Liban reported in a special news flash.

A date for the trial has not been announced but the proceedings against Dr. Geagea and seven other suspects implicated in the bombing will take place at the Justice Court which deals with crimes against the state.

Verdicts issued by this court cannot be appealed.

Ten worshippers were killed and 60 others wounded in the bombing of Our Lady of the Deliverance Church dur-

ing a Sunday mass in the Christian heartland north of Beirut.

Dr. Geagea has been held in custody since April 21 at the Lebanese Defence Ministry, where Mr. Malek is also being held.

He was taken in as part of an investigation into the murder of a rival Christian leader, Dany Chamoun, and his family in October 1990.

Dr. Geagea headed the Lebanese Forces, a militia which turned into a political party at the end of Lebanon's 1975-1990 war and was outlawed by the government on March 23.

U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy has written to Lebanon's Justice Ministry voicing concern at the government's dissolution of the party without awaiting the outcome of the investigations.

Lebanon reactivated the death penalty for political crimes in March after the church bombing amid efforts to tighten up security and legal procedures. Four people have been hanged since the measure went into effect.

Mr. Freiha's accusations coincided with the 15th anniversary of the murder of former Christian deputy Tony Frangieh, the son of the late President Suleiman Frangieh, and his family by a commando led by Dr. Geagea. Dozens of other people were killed in the attack.

The government viewed the bombing as an attempt to scare off foreign investment, badly needed for postwar reconstruction.

Dr. Geagea has denied involvement in the church bombing. He said blaming the Lebanese Forces was a government attempt to stifle opposition.

Dr. Geagea turned down several invitations to serve in governments formed after the end of the civil war.

Yemen war continues

(Continued from page 1)

Saleh last week in Sanaa and has since also travelled to Jordan and Oman, apart from a first visit to Saudi Arabia where he held talks with King Fahd.

In Mukalla, 700 kilometres from Aden and the latest target of northern advances, Mr. Ibrahim met several southern leaders on Monday, except for Mr. Beidh.

The southern leader switched his headquarters to his home town of Mukalla in the early weeks of the war as northern troops besieged Aden.

However, northern forces are now closing in on Mukalla itself.

The north said Sunday its troops had moved to within 25 kilometres of Mukalla, although correspondents at the front line said they were still around 55 kilometres away.

The latest ceasefire was the fourth since June 6, and like the others it was stillborn. It followed a night of shelling in which six people were killed and 32 wounded in an Aden suburb, hospital officials said.

Mr. Ibrahim's mission is in line with a U.N. Security Council Resolution of June 1 calling for an immediate ceasefire in the war raging since May 5 and the reopening of talks between north and south.

On the humanitarian front, the European Commission granted \$835,200 in aid to displaced people in Yemen, whom a U.N. official in Sanaa said number almost 500,000.

Medical and food aid worth almost \$350,000 will be provided to 5,000 refugees in both north and south.

The remainder, \$290,000, will be used to provide drinking water and build minimum sanitary equipment for 1,000 families in the Lahij region, 40 kilometres from Aden.

Parliament adjourned

(Continued from page 1)

liamentary bloc when he introduced the reshuffle. They want the session to make their discontent with the government felt.

Forty-two deputies last week discussed a request for a vote of no confidence in the government but decided to shelve it out of concern not to rock the boat at such a critical period for the Kingdom, among other reasons.

But parliamentary sources said the deputies are planning to write a letter to the King in which they will explain the

"shortcomings" of the government when he returns from the United States.

Sources expect that a number of lawmakers would also request a new extraordinary session.

Article 82 of the Constitution stipulates that an extraordinary session can be held at the request of more than half the 80 members of the House. It is not clear whether a request to hold the new session will have the support of more than 40 deputies.

Suspect claims Pan Am blast

(Continued from page 1)

advocate in Scotland or to the U.S. authorities."

He said Britain would be "looking with interest at details of this confession."

A bomb ripped apart the Pan Am Boeing 747 over the Scottish town of Lockerbie on Dec. 21, 1988, as it flew from London towards New York. All 259 people aboard and 11 people on the ground died.

Jim Swire, a spokesman for British relatives of Lockerbie bombing victims, said Shaaban's claim "should be regarded with grave suspicion."

"It could be that he is seeking to attract what terrorists might regard as kudos for the Abu Nidal organisation," said Mr. Swire, whose daughter Flora was killed in the bombing.

Court sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, speculated Shaaban might have been instructed by Abu Nidal to make the claim to take the heat over the bombing off Libya.

Abu Nidal is believed to be living in Libya.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said this week Abu Nidal could be dead.

Foreign Minister Faris Bouez said fresh legal proceedings would be taken against Shaaban in the Lockerbie case if his claim proves to be true.

مكتبة في الجبل